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LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
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No 63,270

THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21 1988



Animal rights activists claim store attacks

Security stepped up after fire-bombings

- Police believe that the Animal Liberation Front is responsible for fire-bomb attacks in London and other cities
- An anonymous caller to a newspaper said that the front was responsible and that other attacks would follow
- Stores owned by the House of Fraser, including Harrods, were the main target for the attacks
- Up to nine incendiaries were used in what was the largest single assault on outlets connected with the fur trade

By Stewart Tandler, Craig Seton and Ian Smith

Security in department stores nationally was tightened last night after a series of fire-bomb attacks linked to the Animal Liberation Front on targets including Harrods, Selfridges, shops in other cities, and a Cambridge professor.

In an anonymous call to the offices of the *Manchester Evening News*, a caller claimed that the Animal Liberation Front was responsible for the attacks and claimed others would follow.

Police believe that the ALF was responsible for up to nine incendiaries in the largest single attack, mounted by the group, on outlets and people connected with the fur trade

and animal experimentation. One of the devices was sent through the post to the home of Professor Ian Glynn, aged 60, the head of the physiology laboratory at Cambridge University. Police said that the device would have killed or maimed the scientist, who said he did not hold a licence to work on live animals.

Stores owned by the House of Fraser, including Harrods, were the main target for

THE TARGETS

LONDON: Incendiary devices in furniture departments at two London stores, Harrods and Selfridges. There were no injuries. Incendiary devices also at House of Fraser in Oxford Street, and another in Jilly bag delivered to Fur Review Publishing Co in the City.

BIRMINGHAM: Package at Rackhams containing incendiary device made safe by army experts.

PLYMOUTH: Blaze swept through Dingles. Being treated as possible arson.

CARDIFF: Fire at Howells HoF store caused thousands of pounds of smoke damage.

All stores, except Selfridges, part of House of Fraser group. CAMBRIDGE: Incendiary device sent through post to home of Professor Ian Glynn, head of physiological laboratory.

Campaign warning 2
Photograph 20

incendiaries left overnight. Five of the seven attacks or fires were in stores owned by the group.

Both Harrods and Selfridges have been targets for attack in the past.

A fire at Dingles department store, part of the House of Fraser group, in Plymouth destroyed much of the third and fourth floors at a cost of millions of pounds. Many hours after the fire, the scene was still too hot for forensic scientists to begin their investigations but police are linking the fire to attacks elsewhere.

Mr Neil Wallington, the chief fire officer, said that a fireball ripped through the upper levels as temperatures soared around 1,000°C.

He said: "There was a flashover and a huge rolling

ball of fire exploded with such force that 25 tonnes of brickwork came down and damaged several fire engines. Luckily the men escaped."

Damage estimated at thousands of pounds was caused in a second store owned by the group, Howells in Cardiff. An incendiary was left in a suit pocket in the gentlemen's outfitters.

Mr David Gill, the manager, said: "We had two security men in the store patrolling. If they had not attended, we could have lost the store. Within seconds they could not see each other in the smoke. We could have lost these two."

In London, the first sign of the attacks came at the House of Fraser store in Oxford Street, when a security guard found a small device and called police who made it safe. Hours later, further along the street, a small fire started in Selfridges after a device was left in a sofa and did a small amount of damage.

At Harrods, staff were already checking through the store when the fire started, also in a sofa, which was destroyed.

At Rackhams in Birmingham, and the offices of the Fur Review Publishing Company in the city, two other suspected devices were found and taken away by police. Another attack was carried out on Saddlers Printers in Lye, near Wolverhampton, who publish *Fur Review*.

The 9in by 7in package, apparently delivered by hand yesterday morning, contained the words ALF. Written on the outside of the package were the words: "Do not open. Telephone the police." The building was evacuated and the package taken away for inspection.

The attacks come at a time when the latest edition of *The Liberator*, the magazine of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, includes an article sent from prison by Ronnie Lee, the former leader of the ALF, now serving a 10-year term for attacks on shops and laboratories.

Lee, in a "personal opinion" section of the magazine, argues there are limits to conventional campaigning for animal rights.

Continued on page 20, col 1

Only one brief cry as Beatrice is christened



The Duchess of York with her daughter, Princess Beatrice, after the baby's christening at St James's Palace yesterday.

Princess baptized in royal tradition

By Alan Hamilton

Princess Beatrice of York, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York and fifth in line to the throne, was christened in time-honoured royal tradition yesterday, wrapped in a robe of Honiton lace and her head anointed with River Jordan water from a Hebron phial.

Under Holbein's splendid painted ceiling in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace, which also witnessed Charles I's last service on the morning of his execution, the baby was christened Beatrice Elizabeth Mary by Dr John Habgood, Archbishop of York, assisted by Canon Anthony Caesar, Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal.

Dr Habgood was the specific choice of the baby's parents, to reflect the fact that they are, after all, the Yorks.

The Queen was baptized by the then Archbishop of York in 1926, as she too was the daughter of a Duke and Duchess of York.

Princess Beatrice remained quiet and well-behaved throughout the 30-minute service, except for a brief cry as the water was brought to her forehead from the Lily font which, like the christening robe, was made in 1840 for Queen Victoria's eldest daughter Victoria, and has been used regularly for royal baptisms ever since.

The baby seemed unaware that she had precipitated a major family occasion as she lay cradled in the arms of her mother, dressed in a bright emerald outfit with large matching hat, and watched by her father, in a navy blue double-breasted suit.

About 100 guests in the Chapel Royal were led by the Queen in bright cyclamen pink, Prince Philip, the Queen Mother, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince William, Prince Henry, Princess Margaret, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, the Princess Royal and her children, Peter and Zara Phillips. The Duchess's father, Major Ronald Ferguson, and her mother Mrs Susan Barran-tes, were joined by Major Ferguson's present wife Susan and their three children.

For yesterday's christening, the baby's parents chose the Church of England's Series 2 baptism service, interspersed with three hymns: *Jesus, God Above All Others*, *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, and *Away in a Manger*. The choir also sang *Princess Beatrice's Anthem*, to music specially composed for the occasion.

Vickers given tank ultimatum

By Michael Evans and Nicholas Wood

Britain's sole tank manufacturer, Vickers Defence Systems, was given a make-or-break deadline by the Government yesterday to produce a prototype Challenger 2 tank for the Army, or face another round of fierce competition with its main foreign rivals in the United States and West Germany for a contract worth at least £1.4 billion.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, announced in the Commons yesterday that the Leeds-based company is to be given £90 million between now and September, 1990 to demonstrate its ability to produce a tank that will be as good as, or better than, the American M1A1 Abrams, built by General Dynamics, or the Leopard 2, built by Kraus Maffei of West Germany.

The award, which Vickers has been waiting for for two years, was a reprieve for both Vickers, its workforce, and for

British technology. But it came after the Ministry succeeded in forcing down the price of the Challenger 2 programme by threatening to buy from the US or Germany unless the company offered firm guarantees on price and delivery time.

Mr Peter Levene, chief of defence procurement at the Ministry, said at a press

conference: "The prices have been moving in one direction ... that's downwards."

Vickers has not only had its profit margin pared but also still faces an uncertain future. Mr Younger said he was "keeping the lines open" to the American and German companies, so that if Vickers failed, the Government could turn to the British company's rivals.

Sir David Plastow, chair-

man of Vickers, put a brave face on it yesterday. He was delighted and relieved that the Government had decided to put money into Challenger 2 — the company has already spent £30 million of private capital — but he chose his words carefully when asked at

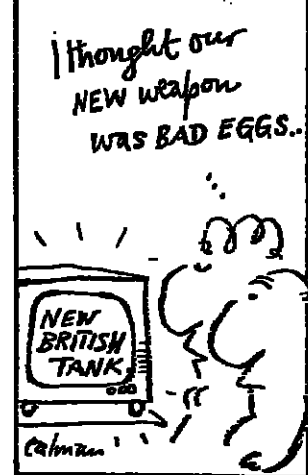
a press conference about the price agreed with the Ministry.

"We're comfortable with it," he said. "I think it's a fair and proper price." He said Vickers would be able to make a profit.

Mr Younger made it clear that he hoped Vickers could prove at the end of 21 months that Challenger 2 was the best tank. At stake are about 1,500 direct jobs and up to 8,000 indirect jobs at Vickers suppliers throughout the country.

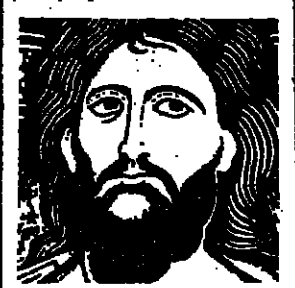
The time-scale agreed with the company also means that the Army will now have to wait longer for a replacement for the ageing Chieftain tank.

The result of the tough negotiations going on between Vickers and the Ministry in the last months was seen as a clear victory for Mr Levene, who said: "We have nothing to complain about." The £90 million provided by the Government to fund Challenger 2 will produce nine prototypes.



CHRISTMAS with THE TIMES

Who was Jesus?



● In a special Christmas Eve edition of the *Sunday Times* Magazine, which will be published with *The Times* on Saturday, eminent scholars examine the character of Christ, and Anthony Burgess reflects on the current state of Christianity.

● Also in *The Times* on Saturday: the Prize Jumbo Crossword, with £250 to be won.

● Next week: free with *The Times*, a special 12-page edition of *Early Times*, in which children interview (among others) Roald Dahl, Frank Cartucci and Father Christmas.

WIN £68,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● There was one winner of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize (see page 3) so the fund remains at £68,000. Prices: page 25

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Red Cross is forced to pull out of Lebanon

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The International Committee of the Red Cross has ordered all 17 of its delegates to leave Lebanon by tomorrow night after more death threats — the first time it has taken such a step.

The all-Swiss organization has been operating in Lebanon for more than 20 years and has never previously pulled out of any situation because of extremist threats to individuals.

"The ICRC was informed on Monday that serious threats had been made against its delegates, placing their

lives in acute danger," a statement said.

"Because of these threats, we are compelled to suspend our entire humanitarian operation and bring back immediately all expatriate staff," it added.

● LONDON: Britain has six diplomats in Beirut with a support staff and a Royal Military Police detachment for protection. On Monday, the Embassy renewed a warning to the 90 Britons living in Lebanon to leave Muslim-controlled areas.

Arafat in Belgrade, page 5

Inflation forecast 'too low'

By Rodney Lord Economics Editor

The underlying rate of inflation next year is likely to be higher than forecast by the Treasury, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says.

Without the effect of mortgage rate increases it will average 6.4 per cent.

Share transactions in Blue Arrow at the centre of a DTT investigation into County NatWest were known about at boardroom level in the National Westminster Bank, it emerged last night. Details, page 21

compared with 5 per cent for the financial year 1989-90 forecast by the Treasury. It also expects the trade deficit to get worse rather than better.

OECD forecast, page 21
Comment, page 23

Fresh inquest on IRA men ordered

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Three RUC officers suspected of firing the fatal shots that killed a trio of unarmed Provisional IRA terrorists were ordered by the Appeal Court yesterday to give evidence at a fresh inquest into the deaths.

The Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland also ruled that the present controversial inquest should be stopped and a new one held into the killings of the terrorists on the outskirts of Lurgan, Co Armagh, six years ago.

But the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Sir Brian Hutton, said that while the three officers were compelled to give evidence in the witness box, they could claim privilege against incriminating themselves when answering questions put to them about the incident.

The Appeal Court judgement is a victory for Mrs

Eleanor McKerr, the widow of one of the shot terrorists, who fought a legal battle to force the two constables and a sergeant to give evidence at the inquest.

She wanted them in the witness box so they could be cross-examined about the

Legal challenge 12
Conor Cruise O'Brien 12

shooting which was one of a series of three in the autumn of 1982 which led to allegations that the RUC operated a shoot to kill policy.

Mrs McKerr said: "If they have nothing to hide, all they can do is go into the witness box and tell the truth of what really happened that night."

"The RUC should be forced to tell the whole truth about this controversial killing."

The judgement also threat-

THE FAMOUS GROUSE
Quality in an age of change.

Parents of dead child found guilty of cruelty

By Michael Horsnell, Sheila Gann and David Sapsed



Roy Aston: No emotion shown over verdict.

The parents of Doreen Mason, aged 16 months, were found guilty of child cruelty yesterday but the jury failed to reach verdicts on murder charges against the two.

The judge at the Central Criminal Court sent the jury to a hotel for the night after their deliberations lasted nearly seven hours. They will continue their deliberations in court today.

Christine Mason, aged 22, Doreen's mother, and Roy Aston, aged 24, her stepfather, have denied murdering the child at their council flat in Walworth, south London, on September 13 last year.

The child, who was on Southwark Council's at-risk register, died in hos-

pital from a brain haemorrhage, though she had numerous other injuries including five fractures of her left leg, a badly-burnt hand and multiple bruising.

Mr John Nutting, counsel for the prosecution, alleged during the trial that her injuries were consistent with the baby being slammed against a wall or rammed against the floor.

Neither Mason nor Aston showed any signs of emotion when the partial verdicts were announced.

Mason, wearing a white sweatshirt with a cartoon dog on the front, scribbled notes as Mr Justice Turner asked the jury if they wanted to continue their deliberations.

● Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, who headed the inquiry into the death of Kimberley Carlisle in 1986, said the

Government's Children Bill would give "much needed and long overdue" guidance to social workers faced with the dilemma of tackling child cruelty cases.

"Until now, legislation has been very unsatisfactory because it has been unclear, dotted all over the statute books and has given social workers the opportunity to claim that they could not act effectively because there were no clear guidelines," he said last night.

He pointed to the inquiries — totalling more than 20 — into child death cases since 1974 and said: "There is no ready answer to the problem. Cleveland illustrated the dilemma social workers constantly face: they are either criticized for being too slow to intervene or too fast. The Children Bill is an

Continued on page 20, col 7

Woman's death linked to attacks by 'staring' rapist

Girl photographer found murdered in alley undergrowth

By Andrew Morgan

Police last night launched a murder hunt after the body of a young woman photographer was found in undergrowth in an alley in south London.

She was identified as Lorraine Benson, aged 22, from South Norwood, who specialized in taking photographs of young children. She had been savagely attacked and her partly clothed body was dumped in the dimly-lit Cottenham Park walk.

Detectives last night said the attack could be linked with two rapes and an attempted rape during the past two months in the Norbiton area. They all took place close to railway stations.

Two were close to Norbiton station and a third, involving a girl aged 17, took place near New Malden station, but the woman managed to beat off her assailant.

Miss Benson, who worked for Carousal Portraits in Cobham, Surrey, had attended a party at Arding & Hobbs store in Clapham. She was due to visit a friend and his family in Raynes Park later that night.

She was dropped at Clapham Junction, from where she travelled to Raynes Park at about midnight where her friend was expected to meet her.

She telephoned his house shortly after midnight to say she had arrived but she never completed the journey to the house in Holland Avenue. The man had arrived late and assumed she had left.

Later the man's mother became worried and reported her missing to the police after searching for her in adjoining streets.

Detectives said signs of a

struggle were found in Holland Avenue about 200 yards from the house but the body was found about three quarters of a mile away.

Chief Supt Bernie Davis, who is leading the hunt, declined to comment on whether she had been sexually assaulted. He said the body was covered with severe bruising.

He called for witnesses who might have seen Miss Benson at about midnight in Raynes Park, walking along Coombe Lane towards the A3.

He said: "It is a busy road which is a main link between Kingston and Wimbledon and it is well lit. The alley where the body was found is also a well-used cut-through."

It was likely that the assailant would have had a detailed knowledge of the area. "She was carrying a Vodafone but she didn't even have time to use it", he said.

Mr Davis said it was possible the woman had either run away from her attacker in Holland Avenue or the assailant had put her body into a car and dumped it later.

Detectives said her clothing was scattered over a 200-yard radius from the alley. They believed the clothes, which included jeans, underwear, a coat, boots and a handbag, had been discarded after the attack. Other clothing was also found in Holland Avenue.

The police recovered all Miss Benson's clothes. She was said to have been wearing a mustard jumper, blue jeans, brown calf-length boots, a white raincoat with blue lining and hood. She was carrying a black handbag and had a change of clothing in a plastic

bag for her overnight stay.

Mr Davis said officers from Norbiton investigating the three recent sexual attacks were helping with the inquiries.

He said a similar description of the attacker had been given after each assault. The man was said to be aged 35 to 40, between 5ft 10in and 6ft tall, broad-chested, medium build and "noticeable staring eyes" as well as mousy hair, a crooked nose, unshaven, an uneven fringe and wearing a dark coat and jeans.

Last night Mr Michael Benson, Miss Benson's father, said his daughter had called on Monday night at about 8.30pm to say she was staying with her friend.

He said his daughter had lodged in a vicarage with the man and three other friends a short time ago.

Police last night said the man was still helping them with their inquiries but was unlikely to be linked in any way with the killing.

Mr Benson said the man's mother had telephoned him at about 1.20am yesterday morning to say his daughter had not arrived. He then went out with the police to search for her.

He described his daughter as "full of life, who lived for her photography" and enjoyed the music of Elvis Presley and Tami Motown.

He said: "This is bloody stupid — this sort of thing is just going on every day of the year. But you never think it will happen to you."

Mr Benson has two other daughters, Karen, aged 28 and Tanya, aged 25.



Miss Lorraine Benson, whose body was found in undergrowth in south London

Aftermath of Coventry siege

Thatcher resists call for gun ban

By Richard Ford and Craig Seton

The Prime Minister resisted pressure for tougher controls on guns yesterday in the wake of Monday's siege and fatal shooting of a policeman in Coventry.

In the Commons, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said she would wait to see the effect of the new firearms Act when MPs questioned her on the killing of PC Gavin Carlton, and on a decision in the High Court to return a shotgun licence to a man from Kent with convictions for assault and a prison record.

As tributes for PC Carlton were made in Coventry, the Prime Minister said it was important to wait until the new regulations came into effect before judging whether further action was needed.

Mr David Winnick (Labour) and Mr Roger Gale (Conservative) called for tighter controls on weapons, and for steps to ban the issuing of firearms to convicted criminals.

Mrs Thatcher told Mr Gale: "It would first be best to get the Act passed fully into operation. It does tighten the criteria for the issuing of shotgun certificates. It is a very considerable advance on present legislation."

She said the court decision had been taken under the old firearms Act, passed in 1968, which the new legislation was designed to replace. Under the new measures, police could refuse a licence if the applicant had no "good reason" to keep a shotgun.

"They will have to be satisfied that the applicant will not be a danger to public safety. Shotgun-owners will be required to keep their shotguns securely to minimize the risk of theft, and all shotguns have to be registered separately", she said.

Mrs Thatcher also paid

tribute to the "bravery and courage" of the police.

In Coventry, an anonymous resident taped two red carnations to the wall inside Little Park Street police station yesterday, with the message: "Because of you the world is a little safer".

Police colleagues also paid tribute to PC Carlton, aged 29, who, with PC Leonard Jakeman, was gunned down chasing a pair of armed bank robbers on Monday morning. One of the gunmen later shot himself dead and the other surrendered. PC Jakeman was seriously injured.

PC Carlton, married with no children, was part of the 20-strong A unit at Fleetchampstead Highway police station on the outskirts of the city, where he had worked since joining the force seven years ago.

A highly qualified police driver, he loved cars and had requested a transfer to the traffic division of West Midlands Police.

Mr Geoffrey Dear, the Chief Constable, said officers such as PC Carlton and PC Jakeman frequently had to face danger unarmed. However, he doubted that equipping all officers with guns would provide an answer.

Chief-Inspector Ron Pearce, the deputy sub-divisional commander, said: "PC Carlton was carrying out his normal duties. It could have been any one of the A unit who responded to that call. He was very happy doing his job. The dangers are discussed and tend to be made light of by the officers. Fortunately, it is still rare for officers to be gunned down."

PC Carlton lived at Leamington Road, Coventry. His wife was said to be devastated. His parents were too distraught to talk yesterday.

Airports to have own radio

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

Heathrow and Gatwick airports are to have their own community radio station to help to advise passengers and staff of travel arrangements and delays, it was announced yesterday.

The contract is one of 21 which will be advertised by the Independent Broadcasting Authority in the first wave of community radio to arrive in Britain.

Many of the community stations are expected to be on the air in 1989, providing a mixture of music, local information and news.

A short list of 26 areas from which the radio contracts will be awarded include:

Greater London (FM), Greater London (ethnic), Brixton, London (ethnic), Harrogate, London (ethnic), Hounslow, London (ethnic), Thamesmead, London, Central Birmingham, Coventry (ethnic) or Wolverhampton (ethnic), Central Manchester (ethnic), Stockport, Bathgate (West Lothian), Easterhouse (Glasgow) or Paisley, Stirling, Belfast, Bradford (ethnic), Bristol, East Newcastle or Sunderland, Isle of Wight, Kettering or St Albans, Rutland, Sheffield and Tendring (Essex).

Higgins debt

Alex Higgins, the snooker player, yesterday arranged to pay a £100,000 tax debt by instalments. After a private hearing in London an Inland Revenue spokesman said: "He wants to pay over six months and that offer has been accepted."

12 still held

Surrey and Scotland Yard detectives were last night questioning 11 men and a woman held in raids in south-east London by police investigating a trail of attacks across Surrey last week in which one man died, another was severely injured and a couple were burgled.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

Mr Peter Batchard, from Greenwich, south-east London, was the sole winner of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio prize.

Mr Batchard, aged 80, said he was delighted to be the first Punch and Judy man to win the competition. He is planning a cycling holiday in the Shetland Islands with his wife next spring, but his puppets — which have been taken on previous holidays in New Zealand and Australia — will stay behind this time.

British Psychology Society conference

Bright pupils risk being 'emotionally retarded'

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Thousands of Britain's brightest schoolchildren are at risk of serious psychological damage because they are pushed too far, too fast, by parents, teachers, and themselves, a conference was told yesterday.

The youngsters, described as "hot-house children" because of their rapid educational progress, may grow up emotionally retarded, unable to form mature relationships, and may even become suicidal in adulthood, two leading psychologists said.

Dr Joan Freeman, of Manchester University and President of the European Council for High Ability, which promotes research and information, said: "Many of these children are paying a harsh penalty for their brilliance. Some are potential

Today's teenagers are far less likely to marry and have a baby than they were in the 1960s, according to a report published yesterday (Emma Wilkins writes).

Of women born in the 1940's and 50's, 30 per cent married while they were teenagers. Of women born in the

1960's little more than 10 per cent had married by the age of 20, says the report by the Family Policy Studies Centre.

More than two thirds of teenage births are now outside marriage, compared with just a quarter in the Sixties.

The report also says teen-

agers are more hard-headed now than they were two decades ago.

Marriage and children are not among the immediate concerns of these aged 14-19, they are more interested in cars and motorbikes, says the report, a compilation of more than 30 recent surveys.

Dr Freeman said gifted pupils should be brought together and encouraged to share their interests, rather than being left to become isolated. "We must develop policies to look after the bright as well as the underdeveloped."

She and Dr Howe said most gifted children developed normally. Dr Howe's advice to parents was: "Give children time, patience and attention. Support their endeavours, but don't overdo it."

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Management buy-out

Station catering privatized

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

British Rail's policy of privatizing activities not central to the running of the railways took a step forward yesterday when it announced that a management team had bought its Travellers' Fare station catering organization.

The new owners will have about 270 catering outlets at 140 stations throughout Britain.

The business has been acquired by a group of 10 senior managers and directors, led by Mr David Bailey, managing director, and Mr Chris Maguire, operations director.

Mr Bailey refused to disclose the price paid but said £20.5 million had been raised under the leadership of 31, the venture capital company. Only

a part of that sum was to cover the purchase price, the remainder being required for operating capital.

Travellers' Fare includes many of the familiar brand names seen at railway stations such as Casey Jones, Upper Crust, Quiksnack and Coffee Shop. Last year it had profits of about £7 million on a turnover of £74 million.

Mr Bailey said all 10 managers involved in the buy-out had to take on substantial obligations to finance their stake in the business.

For the first year they would be consolidating existing business and sharpening their brand images, but after that they would be looking at the prospect of extending Trav-

ellers' Fare activities outside railway stations, something they had been banned by law from doing while part of British Rail.

They would be offering their 3,500 staff a share option scheme in the new year.

As part of the preparations for privatizing station catering Travellers' Fare was formed into a limited company within British Rail last year.

The next section to be privatized will be BREI 88, formerly the Railway Workshops, for which another management buy-out is possible.

Among earlier privatizations by British Rail were its hotels and cross-Channel ferry operations.

Extra £2m state cash for heart transplants

By Our Science Correspondent

Britain's four heart transplant centres will receive extra government funding of more than £2 million next year to enable about 50 additional operations to be performed.

Just over £9 million will be available for heart and heart-lung transplants in 1989-90.

Harefield Hospital, west London, will have just over £1 million, bringing its new allocation to almost £4.15 million.

Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, and Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester, will each receive about £500,000.

The Papworth money will help to pay for transplants at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, Newcastle Hospital

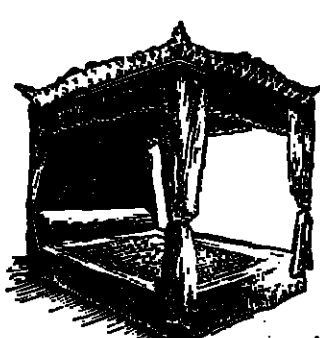
is to get a further £152,000. More than 450 heart transplants are planned next year.

Meanwhile, the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, is setting up a £250,000 public appeal in an attempt to become Britain's fifth heart transplant centre.

The Sheffield Heart Transplant Fund, will finance a pilot programme of 12 transplants over two years.

More lung transplants may be carried out as a result of a £41,000 research project funded by the British Lung Foundation.

New methods of extending donor lungs' storage time pending transplantation are being investigated by doctors at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, north-west London.



"I thought to have married a man, not a monk," was what Eleanor of Aquitaine had to say of her first husband, Louis, heir to the throne of France.

Not surprisingly, she soon got rid of him and went on to marry our very own Henry Plantagenet.

A fortunate move for the wine lovers of this country. For the bulk of Eleanor's dowry consisted of large areas of fine wine-producing country, including the renowned Bordeaux region.

As you savour the superior taste of Calvet Reserve, be thankful for Henry Plantagenet's taste in women.

And the marriage meant that the fine wines of Bordeaux could be exported to Britain for the first time.

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CALVET - THE REAL TASTE OF BORDEAUX.

Big surge expected in air travel despite tunnel

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

The number of people travelling by air could double within the next 12 years and triple five years later, in spite of the Channel tunnel's development and a reduction in the growth of tourism, the Department of Transport says.

A report published yesterday predicts that up to 234.5 million people a year will pass through British airports by the year 2005, compared with 86 million last year.

However, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, told the Commons yesterday that the London area still had "substantial spare runway capacity at Stansted" and delayed making any decision

Greenwich Borough Council failed in its High Court action to delay plans for a bridge across the Thames yesterday. The court ruled that the

on building more runways. He is waiting for a detailed analysis of long-term air congestion by the Civil Aviation Authority, which should be completed by July.

"I shall neither take nor endorse any decisions on airport capacity until I have considered that advice", he told MPs.

Airlines and passenger organizations have been urging him to take immediate action to increase the number of runways and terminals in the South-east to avoid a repetition of last summer's congestion.

They will have much to

Government had the right to re-examine designs for the £183 million bridge. Greenwich said the departments of transport and the environment

back their arguments in the latest statistics. Though it is now believed that by 1995, 5.4 million passengers who would otherwise travel by air to the Continent will use the Channel tunnel, and that congestion at British tourist attractions will reduce the number of foreign visitors flying in by about one million, 21.5 million more people than forecast two years ago are nevertheless expected to travel by air in 1995.

Yesterday's report admits that "some degree of congestion will occur in the London terminal control area before

1995", when a new air traffic control system is implemented by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The CAA also published its own report on likely congestion, in advance of the long-term analysis it is preparing for Mr Channon.

The authority believes that passengers who endured long delays last summer may switch to other forms of transport next year and that airlines will use bigger aircraft. It therefore predicts that the number of aircraft movements could rise by as little as 3 per cent next year.

However, the CAA has

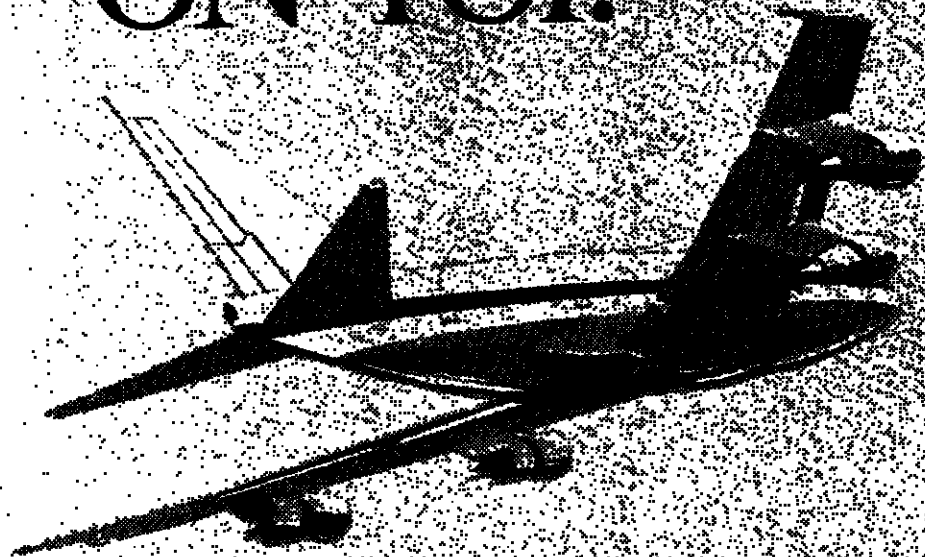
asked airlines to incorporate more spare capacity instead of using aircraft every available hour of the day.

"If demand is scheduled in 1989 at ... higher rates than the available system capacity ... then the level of delays will tend to increase", the authority says.

Mr Howard Davies, secretary of the British Air Transport Association, said last night: "We are uneasy about all the statistics because both the Government and the CAA have consistently underestimated the demand for air travel."

"The whole industry is convinced of the need for additional runways and terminals in the South-east. Planning for that must start as soon as possible because building a new runway can take a long time."

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**ABBEY
NATIONAL
BUILDING SOCIETY**

Apology from Mrs Gorbachov

By David Tytler
Education Editor

Mrs Raisa Gorbachov, the wife of the Soviet President, has written to a British school to apologise for not being able to accept their invitation to visit.

The Gorbachovs had to postpone a planned visit to Britain because of the Armenian earthquake disaster. Mrs Gorbachov's letter also passed on the thanks of President Gorbachov to the British people for their help towards rescue and relief work after the disaster.

Six pupils aged nine from the Gloucester Junior School, Peckham, south London, had written to Mrs Gorbachov asking her to tour their school during the three-day visit to Britain by President Gorbachov.

Mrs Gorbachov's personally-signed letter, together with a picture book of the Soviet Union, was delivered yesterday by Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet Ambassador to London.

It said: "Dear Children, Thank you very much for your invitation and your kind and warm letter. I would have very much liked to come to your school, listen to the steel band and, of course, talk to you. Such is also the wish of Mikhail Sergeevich, with whom we read your letter. 'As you probably know, we in the Soviet Union are deeply upset by a terrible misfortune: a frightening earthquake has taken away thousands and thousands of lives. Your coun-



Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet ambassador, relaying Mrs Gorbachov's regrets yesterday.

try was one of the first to react to this disaster by urgently sending to Armenia a team of experienced rescuers, firemen, doctors as well as medical supplies.

"This is the reason why we were unable to come to London and had to postpone the visit to Britain. I hope you are

interested how Soviet children of your age live. Perhaps you would want to establish links with one of the schools in Moscow. If so, I promise you my help.

"I wish you all joy, health and happiness. Mikhail Sergeevich joins me in these wishes, which we also convey

to your teachers and parents. Yours sincerely, R. Gorbachov."

Mr Jo Bea, headmaster of the school, said: "The children are very excited that they got an answer from the Gorbachovs. We will certainly take up the suggestion to forge links with a Soviet school."

Courts set up TV links for child abuse victims

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Judges, lawyers, court officials and police yesterday saw the first live demonstration of how television links will be used in child abuse trials.

The showing, at Liverpool Crown Court, was given by officials from the Lord Chancellor's Department who are starting a nationwide programme to familiarize judges, lawyers and others with how the video links work.

It was part of a pilot project of live television links for child witnesses which is being launched in 14 court centres in England and Wales on January 5 — the first use of video links for giving evidence in criminal trials involving children.

In a recent sex ring case at the Central Criminal Court, the witnesses were screened off so that they would not have to see the defendants, but they were not in a separate room as will be the case in the 14 crown court centres; they could still be seen by judge, jury and counsel.

A camera and screen were brought in, but this was only to enable defendants to watch the witnesses give evidence, while ensuring the witnesses did not have to face the defendants.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has welcomed the installation of the video links equipment. "It is an important development in the presentation of evidence. I hope it will

help those children who unfortunately have to give evidence in child abuse and assault cases, and I shall be most interested to see how effective it is in practice."

The new equipment has been installed under provisions of the Criminal Justice Act, 1988 which allow children under 14 to give their evidence from outside the potentially stressful environment of a courtroom.

By means of a live television link, children who are giving evidence about alleged physical or sexual offences can take part in the proceedings from a less formal room near by; they will be able to see the judge and counsel in the courtroom on a television screen.

The child, who can be accompanied by a supporter or friend, is seen by those in the courtroom on other television screens.

The reform results from concern that some children who have been victims or witnesses of abuse find the formality of court proceedings an additional trauma.

The video links are an attempt to reduce this, while maintaining the opportunity for cross-examination which is an important and central feature of the trial process.

Meanwhile, Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, has set up an advisory group under Judge Thomas

Pigot, QC, to look at the practical implications of allowing the pre-recorded video statements of children who may be victims of abuse to be admissible as evidence in criminal trials.

The courts chosen for the pilot scheme are: Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Mold, Swansea, Exeter, Winchester, Central Criminal Court, Chelmsford, Guildford, Maidstone, and Southwark.

If successful, the system could be extended to other courts throughout the country.

Equipment for the pilot scheme has been hired from Datapoint Ltd and Channel Communications plc.

Two British businessmen gave evidence last week via a satellite video conference in a trial taking place in Milwaukee.

Evidence taken over a video conference system has been admissible in the United States only since February and this is thought to be the first time witnesses have given evidence in this way.

The link was arranged by the London lawyers, Nicholas Graham and Jones, as agents Foley and Lardner, US lawyers. The evidence was given from the Maxwell Business Television Video-conferencing suite at the Inter-continental Hotel.

Church exile's anniversary

New fight over deportation

By Ian Smith

Mr Viraj Mendis, a Sri Lankan, begins his third year of self-imposed exile in a Manchester sacristy today as clerics and political activists launch a new legal offensive to prevent his deportation.

Placing one foot outside the Church of the Ascension, in the deprived inner-city area of Hulme, would mean instant arrest by police, who maintain 24-hour surveillance on Mr Mendis.

Mr Mendis, one of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority, supports the cause of the rival Tamils. Supporters say if he were returned to Sri Lanka, he would immediately be arrested and probably executed.

The soft-spoken "refugee" who arrived in Manchester in 1973, chooses to continue to share the small priest's robing room with cassocks, candles and incense.

Supporters will attempt to have the case reopened, although appeals have so far failed. Members of the Mendis

Defence Campaign say the present election violence in Sri Lanka is proof of the fate awaiting Mr Mendis should the Home Office carry out the deportation order.

"Of course I'm imprisoned inside the church and it is very frustrating to know there is little I can do to change the situation", Mr Mendis said yesterday. "But the alternative would mean committing suicide by voluntarily surrendering and being returned to Sri Lanka, where my fate is certain."

"There is no way I would leave voluntarily, as that would be an act of suicide. The mood in Sri Lanka is very bad and I am regarded as a traitor to the Sinhalese race for backing the Tamil cause."

"I will stay here because I have no choice. Life is a constant strain, full of frustrations, and I am constantly in the middle of a political battleground."

To keep himself busy, Mr

Mendis, who at one stage was offered a £10,000-a-year job by the Manchester City Council as an immigration adviser, keeps up his involvement with the defence campaign.

Last night a candle-lit vigil was held outside the Church of the Ascension to mark the second anniversary of Mr Mendis's claim to protection under an ancient sanctuary law which ceased to have legal meaning in 1623.

The only reason Home Office officials have not forcibly entered the church is to allow all legal channels to be exhausted and prevent what community leaders believe could develop into street riots.

Although not a Christian, Mr Mendis will again be an onlooker as the Church of the Ascension congregation celebrates Christmas.

Church members are planning Christmas gifts for their visitor, the church's most consistent attendee.

Election result, page 7

DPP clears police of trial incompetence

An inquiry by the Director of Public Prosecutions has cleared police and prosecutors of "incompetence" in the trial last year of Mr Roger Birch, aged 21, who was acquitted of murdering two girls in a wood in Brighton in 1986.

In a letter to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, the DPP says he is satisfied the case was properly presented by experienced counsel at Mr Bishop's crown court trial, and every possible step was taken to show the jury all the material available.

Mr Bishop has issued a writ against Mr Roger Birch, Chief Constable of Sussex, alleging wrongful arrest and malicious prosecution. Sussex police said the allegation would be strongly contested.

Recruits ill

The RAF has sent 850 recruits home early for Christmas from its training camp in Swindon, Lincolnshire, after an outbreak of meningitis. Two recruits aged 18 are being treated in hospital.

Vergers look for better conditions

By Andrew Morgan

The vergers of the Church of England, typified for so long by the flat-capped *Dad's Army* figure, are anxiously looking to a church working party to recommend improvements in their wages and status.

They perform a myriad of tasks, including cleaning vestments and the altar, carpentry, security, administration and dealing with tourists.

Vergers have declined in numbers and are largely confined to cathedrals and large parish churches. Increasingly, they are taking on a greater share of the ministry and require a detailed knowledge of their church and an understanding of its mission.

However, outside London the wages can be paltry, with some cathedral vergers earning just £3,000 a year and those in inner cities even less. Most have no pension rights and usually receive no assistance with mortgages when leaving

the accommodation, unlike other lay workers.

The church's initiative, set up at the request of the Guild of Vergers, will examine terms of employment and work conditions.

It will report to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York and the standing committee of the General Synod.

Mr David Dorey, the dean's vergers at Westminster Abbey, described his church as a "role-model" in its attitude to vergers, but added that his colleagues at most others were not properly regarded.

Mr Dorey, a former secretary of the Guild of Vergers, said: "We are trying to be raised from a dog's body to a more responsible group."

"The *Dad's Army* image is way off the mark — there are many young vergers who see the job as a vocation, but they

still expect a living wage." Under a Guild of Vergers training scheme, staff are trained more for pastoral work in the ministry, such as comforting the bereaved, but that can be in addition to tending graveyards.

"There are many facets to the work and we hope the group will create a more professional attitude towards the vergers", Mr Dorey said.

Several years ago, a Church House group undertook a preliminary review of vergers' conditions of work and improvements were made. The guild hopes the working group will make further recommendations.

Mr Derek Pattinson, General Synod general secretary, said: "We have to rethink the role of the vergers and see if we are valuing them enough". Ultimately, though, wage rises will be decided by individual dioceses.

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Soviet consumers hedge against price rises with a run on gold

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

As the New Year holiday approaches, jewellery shops in many Soviet cities are attracting long queues and some have sold out of gold objects, especially in the lower price range. Gold and diamond rings have been in particular demand.

The run on gold has been fuelled by persistent rumours that a price reform will be instituted at the beginning of next year, with gold increasing in price by nearly 50 per cent. Officials have tried to dispel the rumours, saying that although wholesale price increases are likely to rise, there will be no increase in retail prices without preliminary public discussion. But with a pro-

liferation of newspaper articles and television programmes talking about the evils of inflation and the irrationality of the present price structure, official denials are being met with widespread scepticism.

In the Soviet Union, as elsewhere, gold is seen as a hedge against inflation and sudden price rises.

The country has only a poorly developed banking system, and many people prefer to keep their savings under the mattress. At the first hint of price rises, they rush to convert their paper money into the only sound investment they know.

Not everyone has a surplus of roubles. Single parents, couples

with young families or with only one breadwinner, and pensioners often have to count every copeck.

At the other end of the scale, however, are people in well-paid jobs, and those who dabble in the black market, who have thousands of roubles saved and nothing to spend them on because of the acute shortage of quality consumer goods.

Quite how neglected the Soviet consumer sector has been was illustrated yesterday by figures published in *Pravda*.

In a front-page editorial about shortages, the newspaper said heavy industry accounted for nearly 90 per cent of state spending on industry. Of the remaining 10 per cent, only 3.7 per cent — or

less than 31 billion roubles (£31 billion) — was allocated to light industry, the rest went on food production and processing. Only in the past two years has the Soviet leadership started to abandon its insistence on the primacy of heavy industry — an ideological precept of Leninism.

But half-hearted expressions of support for consumer goods production in official pronouncements, coupled with a planning system which still favours gross quantity over quality and demand, have retarded progress.

Pravda yesterday called for a radical shift in spending in favour of the food and consumer sectors, and took heavy industry to task for spending so much time and

money building huge factories that served only themselves. Of more than 700 new factories scheduled for completion this year, the paper said, little more than 100 had been completed and put into operation.

But it admitted that the present system of financing and planning new developments meant that state building contractors were registering record profit rises.

● **Rouble confusion:** The stated intention of the Soviet Union to move towards convertibility of the rouble appears to be causing conflict and confusion in Soviet economic circles.

The head of the Soviet State Committee on Foreign Economic Relations, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Valery Kamenev, was

yesterday unable to clarify how quickly the proposed 50 per cent devaluation of the rouble against hard currencies would come into operation, whether it would be sudden or gradual, and whether it would apply to all currency transactions across the board or just to direct trade agreements.

Mr Kamenev was elaborating on recent changes in foreign trade regulations designed to open up the Soviet Union to more foreign investment and switch the emphasis of Soviet exports from raw materials to manufactured goods.

The changes, published two weeks ago, include allowing foreigners to chair the boards of companies set up as joint ventures, allowing the foreign stake in

a joint venture to exceed the original proportion of 49 per cent, and allowing wage levels in such companies to be fixed by mutual agreement rather than according to existing Soviet regulations.

Mr Kamenev said many questions were yet to be decided, such as whether and where to set up free-trade zones and whether Soviet statutory working conditions should apply to joint ventures.

The tariffs and taxation of goods exported by such companies was also under discussion.

He admitted that, up to now, the primary stumbling block to the establishment of joint ventures had been the need for their chairmen to be Soviet citizens.

Israel's new coalition

Shamir accused of treachery over his deal with Labour

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, yesterday came under violent attack from the country's small right-wing and religious parties as well as from a growing body of opposition inside his own Likud party for the deal he struck on Monday with Mr Shimon Peres's Labour Party to form a broad-based national unity government.

The ultra-Orthodox Shas (Torah Guardians) and Agudat Israel parties yesterday accused him of outright "treachery" when he informed them bluntly that he would be unable to honour his earlier commitments to them. He said that they would have to settle for far less if they still wished to participate in the broad-based coalition now being formed with Labour.

He had earlier made far-reaching concessions to the two parties, which had doubled their strength in last month's election, on the assumption that he would be forming a narrow right-wing religious coalition without the Labour Party.

Both parties said they would be recommending to the religious elders who control them that they stay out of the new government and go into the opposition.

The extreme nationalist Tehiya party also cried treason and said it too would not be joining the coalition. Mr Shamir formally told it yesterday that he would not be able to honour his earlier commitment to give the party chairmanship of the powerful Knesset settlement committee, through which it had hoped to spearhead a massive settlement drive in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The National Religious Party was likewise informed

by Mr Shamir yesterday that it would not be getting the education portfolio it had been promised in an earlier agreement.

The opposition to the deal with Labour within Mr Shamir's own Likud party gathered strength yesterday before last night's central committee meeting called to endorse the agreement. The outgoing Trade and Industry Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, yesterday added his very considerable weight to calls by several Likud backbenchers that the deal with Labour be vetoed.

Visardingen (AFP) — The first farm produce to be sold directly to a European country by Palestinian producers in the Israeli-occupied territories, 1,100 tonnes of grapefruits, arrived at this Dutch port yesterday.

Palestinians are allowed to sell directly to the 12 countries of the EEC, without going through Israeli organizations, under an October agreement with Jerusalem.

the Central Committee.

Mr Shamir yesterday appeared unperturbed by the criticism, warning that he would return his mandate to form a government to the President if the central committee failed to endorse the agreement with Labour.

Opposition to the deal inside Labour was much more muted yesterday. The party is particularly gratified that Mr Peres is to be given the treasury, hoping that his position there will enable him to bail out the Labour-affiliated Kibbutzim and Histadrut industries.

Accordingly, the Labour central committee, which is expected to meet this after-

noon, is expected to endorse the agreements with little trouble.

On the face of it, Mr Shamir's insistence on forming a coalition with Labour — to the point of placing his personal career on the line — rather than a narrow-based government with the ideologically more congenial right-wing and religious parties, may appear to be somewhat puzzling.

But on closer scrutiny, the extreme right-wing religious coalition the Likud leader would have headed, had Labour gone into opposition, would not have been all that attractive to a man as fundamentally cautious and suspicious of radical change as Mr Shamir.

He cannot have relished the prospect of giving in to the shrill calls for massive and aggressive settlement in the occupied territories from his allies in the extreme right-wing parties, whatever his own unshakable belief in the indivisibility of the Land of Israel and the right of Jews to settle there.

Moreover, a very large Labour-led opposition commanding at least 55 seats in the 120-seat Knesset would have been a major thorn in Mr Shamir's side, goading him every time he gave in to his own right wing and constantly challenging the stability of his fragile coalition.

At any rate, Mr Shamir has pointed out, for the time being at least Labour and Likud are at one in opposing any dealings with the PLO, which is expected to be the key diplomatic challenge facing the Foreign Minister-designate, Mr Moshe Arens, now that the US has opened a dialogue with the PLO.

Leading article, page 13

Arafat promotes his peace plan in Yugoslavia



Mr Yasser Arafat, followed by President Džindžić of Yugoslavia, inspecting a guard of honour after arriving in Belgrade yesterday on a tour to promote an international Middle East peace conference.

Earlier, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization told Austrian television and radio that a Palestinian state could be established in the occupied territories within two years (Our Foreign Staff writes).

At a news conference in Vienna, he accused Israel of "torpedoing" the peace process by its latest decision to build eight new Jewish settlements in the territories.

Speaking at the end of a brief semi-official visit to Austria, Mr Arafat denounced Mr Yitzhak Shamir's new coalition Government as a "regime in paralysis".

Meanwhile, a second high-level meeting between Britain and the PLO is being planned amid concern that earlier assurances on terrorism may have been watered down by recent PLO statements. Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is expected to visit Tunis in mid-January.

Unrest hits Jerusalem's tourist trade

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

To step inside the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City is to step back into history: a swirling throng of Arab merchants, Orthodox Jews in black garb and fur hats, and Armenian and Greek priests, with armed soldiers (Israeli rather than Roman these days), all amid a heady scent of spices, incense and the smell of bread carried in trays on the heads of Arab boys.

In normal times the narrow streets are thronged with tourists and pilgrims, especially in this Christmas season. But these are not normal times. Among other things, the Israeli troops at the Gate are guarding an old stone house with a large blue and white Israeli flag on the roof. This is the home of Mr Ariel Sharon, the larger-than-life hardline Israeli general, war hero and politician who deliberately chose to make his home in the Arab quarter.

His defiant gesture is meant to demonstrate that the hard-won unification of Jerusalem in the war of 1967 remains unchallenged, and that

there are no "no-go areas". On the other hand Mr Sharon gave a warning recently that because of the success of the Palestine Liberation Organization in courting world opinion, a *de facto* Palestinian state was being set up "before our very eyes" and "Jerusalem is already a divided city".

Despite the renunciation of terrorism by Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, PLO leaders insist that the Arab *intifada* (uprising) will go on in the Occupied Territories and that it remains a Palestinian aim to claim East Jerusalem as capital of the new Palestine. This kind of extravagant rhetoric has hardened Israeli attitudes, with both Likud and Labour figures in the proposed new coalition determined to crush the uprising.

With Christmas this year showing a marked drop in the number of seasonal visitors, some Israelis — not least hotel-keepers — are worried that one year after it began the *intifada* could spill over from the West Bank to Jerusalem itself, discouraging tourists even further. Other towns associated with the life of Christ have also been hit: Nazareth has cancelled celebrations this year because of "the situation in the territories," while Bethlehem, on the West Bank just outside Jerusalem, is surrounded by road blocks and expects few visitors on Manager Square this Christmas.

"Let's face it, people are afraid," was the comment of one official at the Ministry of Tourism.

But Mr Teddy Kollek, the veteran and much-respected Mayor of Jerusalem, believes such fears are greatly exaggerated, and that the city remains a model for Arab-Jewish relations.

Indeed, although West Bank towns may be dangerous for tourists, Jerusalem remains largely peaceful. In the walled Old City, shops are often shut and padlocked during general strikes ordered by the shadowy *intifada* leadership. But the holy sites of Islam, Judaism and Christianity — including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built by the Emperor Constantine on

the presumed site of Christ's Crucifixion, burial and Resurrection — remain respected and free of violence.

There have been riots on the Haram al Sharif, or Temple Mount, where the golden Dome of the Rock stands. But by and large the Jerusalem communities still coexist as they have for centuries.

Tourism officials, meanwhile, hope that Christmas will pass off peacefully, that the Jeep-loads of paramilitary police, who patrol sensitive areas in East Jerusalem questioning or detaining Arabs, will not have to patrol West Jerusalem too, and that the stones that occasionally crash through car windows in Arab Jerusalem will not one day be flung across the "invisible line".

"Jerusalem is not a divided city again," one long-term resident said thankfully. "But everyone seems to know where one zone ends and another begins. You know automatically where to take care — and where not to go at all at certain times."

WORLD ROUNDUP

Language threat to Quebec accord

Ottawa — An increasingly heated debate over English-language rights is threatening an already beleaguered plan to bring predominantly French-speaking Quebec province into the Canadian constitutional fold (John Best writes).

Mr Gary Filmon, the Premier of Manitoba, stunned many observers on Monday when he announced in Winnipeg that he was withdrawing his Government's support for the plan, the Meech Lake accord, which requires ratification by all 10 Canadian provinces. He was reacting to the announcement on Sunday by Mr Robert Bourassa, Premier of Quebec, that his Government intended to bring in a new law banning the use of English on outdoor commercial signs. French would have to be given prominence even on signs inside shops.

The Bourassa statute, unveiled in the provincial legislature in Quebec City on Monday, was a response to last week's ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada invalidating sections of a 1977 Quebec language law, which prohibits all display of English signs, on the grounds that it violated guarantees of freedom of expression.

Thyssen art for Spain

Madrid — Baron Heinrich Von Thyssen signed a definitive agreement here yesterday with the Spanish Minister of Culture, Señor Jorge Semprun, confirming his April agreement to install his private art collection in Madrid for a minimum of 10 years (Harry Debelius writes).

The pact provides for the long-term loan to Spain of the 775 best works in the collection of about 2,000. Some 75 are to be hung in the Pedrales Palace, in Barcelona, and the remaining 700 in the elegant 18th-century Villahermosa Palace, across the street from the Prado in Madrid.

Envoy bearing gifts

A second British diplomat has arrived in Tehran, bringing with him a turkey and other Christmas fare which he hopes to get permission to share with two British prisoners held in the Ervin prison, Mr Roger Cooper and Mr Nicholas Nicola (Andrew McEwen writes). Mr Victor Welborn, who is to be consul and administrative officer, has joined the acting charge d'affaires, Mr Gordon Pirie, and his wife Maria, who recently reopened the embassy after more than 12 months.

Botha minister goes

Cape Town (Reuters) — President Botha of South Africa yesterday dismissed Mr Amichand Rajbansi, aged 46, his only non-white cabinet minister, after studying the findings of a six-month judicial inquiry into corruption and graft in the Indian House of Delegates which Mr Rajbansi had headed. He was also dismissed as head of the Indian "mini-cabinet". He was as minister of housing for Indians, positions filled by Mr Kassi Ramdath, minister of Indian education.

Customs purge angers Poles

From Richard Bassett
Warsaw

They call it the Bridge of Friendship — 300 yards of concrete road and railway linking Poland with Czechoslovakia at Tesin.

Last week there was little sign of any friendship, however, as for the 50th time since November 15 Czechoslovak border guards strip-searched virtually every Pole leaving Czechoslovakia.

Trains are regularly more than six hours late crossing into Poland as Czechoslovak Customs officials move along the carriages, removing every item they can find which the Poles bought in Czechoslovakia. Motor traffic on the

Friendship Bridge suffers the same fate.

The Czechoslovaks are only doing their duty in accordance with the law brought in on November 15 which prohibits tourists from leaving Czechoslovakia with any of 366 listed items, ranging from citrus fruits to razor blades and children's footwear.

Although the law applies to all travellers, the Czechoslovak authorities make no secret of the fact that it is their Polish neighbours whose shopping they really want to curb.

The East Germans have regularly besieged fruit and sweet shops before Christmas, but as the Czechoslovaks point out they usually buy

only as much as their family needs or their small car can hold. The Czechoslovaks say that the Poles are completely different.

"These people are merchants, not shoppers," said a Czechoslovak Customs guard at Tesin, pointing to a pile of more than 300 pairs of children's slippers taken from one Polish tourist that afternoon. Certainly many of the Poles buy such things in Czechoslovakia to resell on Poland's flourishing black market.

But the measures have left Poles with a sense of outrage.

Last week the Polish Government attacked the Czechoslovak measures openly, calling in the Czechoslovak Ambassador.

Armenian rebuilding begins

From Our Own
Correspondent
Moscow

Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, who has spent the past two weeks directing the disaster relief operation in Armenia, returned to Moscow yesterday with other senior members of the Politburo Commission, including the Defence Minister, General Dmitry Yazov.

Responsibility for the commission's day-to-day work has been handed over to Mr Yuri Batain, a Deputy Prime Minister with responsibility for construction, who is now in Armenia. The handover indicates that Moscow regards the first stage of the relief

operation — the rescue of survivors and evacuation — as complete and now intends to concentrate on reconstruction. Reports from Kirovakan, the city least damaged in the earthquake, say rebuilding work has already begun. Mr Batain says that the new buildings will be reinforced against earthquakes.

On Monday, Mr Ryzhkov told people in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, that the authorities would ensure that all rebuilding conformed to Armenian architectural tradition. Fears had been expressed that rapid reconstruction work and the influx of labour from outside the southern republic would dilute its distinctive character. Addi-

tional airlifts of manpower and supplies have been organized for the rural areas affected by the earthquake, amid continuing criticism that the villages have been neglected by the relief effort.

More than 70,000 people have now been evacuated, many to sanatoria in the Crimea and Georgia.

● **Cowardice charge:** A senior policeman in Leninakan has been suspended for cowardice during the rescue operation.

● **Airbase offer:** Turkey has offered to provide an airbase for use as a trans-shipment point for relief supplies for Armenia, according to Mr Nikolai Volkov, the Soviet Civil Aviation Minister.

Spectrum, page 11

King of Caribbean paradises woos big spenders

From Charles Bremner
Havana

Throughout the Caribbean, the playground of millions of tourists, the hoteliers and restaurateurs are growing just a little nervous: Cuba is attempting a comeback.

After decades of communist disdain for capitalist pleasures, the old king of Caribbean paradises has set out to gain a piece of the highly lucrative tourist action.

But, 30 years after President Castro shut the casinos, chased out the Mafia and closed the place "for ever" to American vice, few tourist officials, from Puerto Rico to Barbados, believe that such of their trade is about to defect back to the Caribbean's largest island.

A crippling shortage of convertible currency helped change Dr Castro's mind about tourism a couple of years ago. All those roubles and dollars from flyshinners were worth little alongside the millions of dollars being earned by far smaller islands.

But the *Left Maximo* faces quite a few hurdles in his path, the first of which is the American "blacklist". US citizens, who dominate the Caribbean trade, are still barred by US law from coming here without

being on officially sanctioned business.

Another is that Cuba badly needs to reverse some long-lost skills. Despite the stunning beauty and limpid waters that have enchanted visitors since Christopher Columbus anchored here and thought he had reached Asia, it will take time to undo the Leninist approach to food, service and plumbing.

"We have lost the tradition of tourism," Señor Rafael Sed, the young high-flyer who heads the drive for tourists, lamented recently. Take, for example, the Nacional, a once sumptuous hotel, perched on the Havana seashore. It is a place where staff still display a healthy socialist disdain for houseguests' needs.

Winning the attention of a lift operator requires shouting "¡abajo!" (going down) through a grating as the lift hurdles past your floor. Gaining entry to one of the Soviet-style restaurants is only half the battle. The other is finding a waiter not too busy talking or, in some cases, eating the food he is to serve.

It is all too familiar to any veteran of the Soviet school of hotel-keeping, but harder to take in the birthplace of the daiquiri cocktail, an island described in the 1938 *Cable News* as "this land of gorgeous adventure and the limber elbow". "Do you want to

say hello to your friends and family?" asks a friendly notice in your room. "It is very easy. Communicate with the operator and in minutes, perhaps seconds, you will be talking with whom you wish." Reality is otherwise. Even a local call can require an hour's wait.

The story is different at the Havana Libre, built just before the revolution as the Hilton and, like much of Havana, an untouched

● Tourism in Cuba was one of prostitution and drugs. That's over ●

museum piece of 1950s design. There the phones work but you can wait 25 minutes for a lift to arrive.

But officials say that under a \$400 million (£220 million) investment programme, including joint ventures with Spanish companies, this will change — for foreigners at least.

Just as in the Soviet Union, police turn away citizens without approved business from the hard-currency shops, hotels and watering holes like the Tropica night club, the one-time Follies Bergere of the Western hemisphere. Narghilees there go as far further than the limber necks you find on a Black Sea beach.

While Dr Castro has decreed that Cuba should be fun again, he insists there will be no return to the old days. "Under capitalism, it was an easy thing to set up a whorehouse," he recalled at a recent rally in Varadero, the coastal area now being equipped with a battery of new hotels and an airport for holiday jets. "Tourism here was one of prostitution. That's over now. A tourism of gambling. A tourism of drugs."

By 1959, Havana had turned into an offshore haven of revelry. Arthur Schlesinger, the American writer, later recalled how "my fellow countrymen reeled through the streets, picking up 14-year-old Cuban girls and tossing coins to make men scramble in the gutter".

Dr Castro has also been telling the people that, for the sake of the economy, they must accept being barred from foreign-only resorts. "Some of you may say it is a pity that you cannot go to the hotels, but we cannot have everything."

Even loyal islanders find that hard to take. "A lot of people don't like the idea of being second-class citizens," said an engineer, aged 33, who supports the President. Keeping the people free from ideological contamination is another unspoken function of dollar segregation in a state that shuns glamour

and ruthlessly suppresses political dissent. Diplomats are speculating about the impact if Westerners do turn up in the planned numbers and the "Yanquis" come back, as they must if Cuba is to reach its goal of two million tourists a year by the year 2000. At present the hard-currency tourists — 190,000 this year — come almost entirely from Canada, Germany, Spain and, to a much lesser extent, Britain and other European countries.

The self-contained resort complexes are not hard to isolate. But the Cubans also want the higher-spending foreigners to pass time in town, visiting sites like the splendidly-restored district of Old Havana, where you can wander cobble streets, listen to steel bands in snail courtyards and try hands like the *Bodega del Medio* cafe.

For those in search of the slightly bizarre, there is the display of Grameen, the hallowed motor cruiser in which Fidel and his comrades headed to launch their revolution and which gave its unlikely English name to Cuba's version of Pravda.

The absence of American accents — there is not so much as a Coca-Cola sign — is also, of course, a feature that local officials are quick to suggest as a plus for European tourists.

Christmas

would be

impossible

without

the Jewish people

While it's true that most people wouldn't consider Christmas a Jewish holiday, *without* Jews there would be no Christmas.

Some think that Jews aren't the "Christmas kind of people" but in the beginning, that wasn't true. *Everything about Jesus* (including his Hebrew name, Y'shua) was as Jewish as the Holy Scriptures. In fact, it was the Jewish Scriptures that God gave for all people which foretold the coming of the Messiah.

Did you ever think about where Y'shua was born? He wasn't born in Buckingham Palace or even in St. Mary's Paddington! He was born in the sheep rearing capital of Israel called Bethlehem Ephrathah, also known as the City of David.

Actually, David's house might have been standing there if it hadn't crumbled before Joseph and Mary arrived. Anyway, they did come to Bethlehem just in time for the census, and not a moment too soon for the birth of "their" baby, that the words of the prophet Micah might be fulfilled:



But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from old, from days of eternity. (Micah 5:2)

Of course, not everyone involved in the Christmas story was Jewish. Take the angel who announced the coming of the Messiah. Everyone knows that all angels are inter-denominational and non-sectarian! That angel told Joseph:

She (that's Mary) will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Y'SHUA, because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)

Even though the angel wasn't Jewish, the message about saving people from sin was. Maybe some people think that words like "sin" and "saved" are taken from some Gentile religion. They're wrong. The whole idea of sin and salvation is from the Jewish Bible. It was *because* Joseph believed the Jewish Scriptures that he was expecting a Messiah, a Saviour and Deliverer who would come from the house of David.

Joseph belonged to that family, but he probably never dared to hope that it would be a close relative. (A tenth cousin, twelve times removed would have been enough.) Yet he knew the promise was to his family because it was written 700 years earlier by the prophet Isaiah:



Then Isaiah said, Hear now, you house of David!...Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:13,14)

Joseph was relieved by Isaiah's words because his betrothed, Mary, was pregnant and he knew he had no part in her condition. Mary was still a virgin, yet she was carrying a son. This was just the beginning of the specialness of that child presumed to be Joseph's.

Joseph found assurance in another Jewish prophet's words as well. While he never read the New Testament (it hadn't yet been written), he knew that there would be a new testament because of what the Jewish prophet Jeremiah wrote:

The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. (Jeremiah 31:31)

This New Covenant (that's the Jewish way to say New Testament) was to be, above all things, a *fresh start*. Joseph had a forward looking faith that saw a future with *no more war, no more hate, no more hunger and no more pollution of the human soul* (that's another way to say sin). In fact, *no more anything bad*.

From this New Covenant there would be only good, only harmony and only love. This was all to begin happening through Mary's son who would be both Jewish King and Saviour—and if you don't want a Jewish saviour—sorry, he's the only kind of saviour available. However, that should be okay since he's for anybody and everybody as Isaiah *also* said:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. (Isaiah 9:6,7)

Note: Jews for Jesus is a member of the Evangelical Alliance of Great Britain.

Certainly today's world is not just and righteous. The reason why we have war, poverty and even parking meters is because our ancestors really messed up this whole planet. Everything got polluted — plants, animal life, the water supply. All were contaminated with a sickness worse than cancer or AIDS. This contamination is more deadly than exposure to radiation or gulping down toxic wastes. It's called *sin*. Not only does it kill, but it immediately distorts everyone's senses so that we find it hard to see or hear God. It seems to give off a sweet perfume which hides its true throat-gagging stench. Sin produces eyes that don't see, ears that don't hear, and hearts that don't love. And the one they don't see, hear or love is God!

All this is the bad news. But it doesn't have to be that way. There is good news: Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, is the Wonderful Counsellor (and when we say that, we don't mean that he just gives good advice)! He is the Saviour of *anybody* and *everybody*! And Christmas is a holiday to be celebrated by everybody and anybody who wants what Y'shua offers.



So you see, without Jews, there wouldn't be any Christmas, and without Jews there would not be any Messiah — Handel's or otherwise. Instead, we might be singing songs to Zeus. Have you heard any Zeusmas carols lately, like maybe "O Little Town of Mount Olympus?"

Today, Jesus is as much for Jews as he ever was! But he is also the non-sectarian, inter-denominational saviour of anyone who needs salvation. Please don't assume that you're exempt from that need just because you're so clever, good looking and/or religious.

If you think you're not lost, you're more lost than you realize. Lost is what you are and lost is what you will remain unless you find out where you're going. That is something you can't know without God. He stands above the horizon beckoning you and directing you in the way you should go. So if you can't see him, it's *not* God who's lost. You haven't lost him, you've lost yourself.

Pretty well everyone has strayed away from the kind of place where they ought to be. Like Isaiah said:

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

We wouldn't even bring up the subject of sin, except there is a solution to the problem, an antidote to the poison and an answer to the destruction caused by sin. Y'SHUA is his name.

Even today, some Jews are looking to Y'SHUA as the one who can save. If you don't believe it is possible for Jews to believe in Jesus, you need to have your eyes opened to a little known, but nonetheless theologically important fact: *God gave the Jewish people to the world that the Messiah of Israel might become everybody's saviour.*

And if you think that Jews aren't for Jesus or Jesus isn't for Jews, we have a book that should change your mind. It's not as important as the Bible, but it's about Jewish people believing in Jesus—just like the New Covenant promises. The book is called *Jesus for Jews*. This 320 page volume is filled to overflowing with the accounts of 15 Jewish people who invite you to enter into the joy they have as they tell about their spiritual odyssey and life-fulfilling discovery — Y'SHUA!



You'll read the story of a lawyer, a holocaust survivor, a former "New Age" couple, a police officer and other Jews who think Y'shua is the Messiah. But make up your own mind. Read their stories. We're offering you this book for only £1. And we'll even pay the postage.

This inter-denominational non-sectarian offer is for anyone who needs a little extra joy and the added reassurance that God does care.

Enclosed is £1. Please send me a postage free inquirer's edition of the *Jesus for Jews* book. (Offer is limited to one per household.)

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Unloading
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Sri Lanka election

Jubilant Premadasa vows to end spiral of political violence

From Edward Gorman, Colombo

Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, the President-elect of Sri Lanka, vowed last night that he would bring to an end the violence that has crippled this once prosperous nation.

Speaking at Colombo town hall immediately after the declaration of the final result of the election held on Monday, a cool but clearly elated Mr Premadasa, aged 64, said: "The politics of terror have no place in the temple of democracy. People have had to face danger and this must stop. This violence must be brought to an end."

Although he did not mention the underground Sinhalese extremist People's Liberation Front (JVP) by name, he made it clear a solution to its insurgency could come only through negotiation. "I am always available for arriving at a practical solution," he said. He said he would not take over from President Jayewardene until January 2.

Mr Premadasa appealed to the Liberation Front, which appears determined to overthrow any future government and has recently assassinated hundreds of its supporters, to enter the political mainstream and to take part in the parliamentary elections planned for February 15.

"To those who tried to

disrupt the polls," he said in Sinhala, "make up your minds soon. You have another chance to participate in democracy." He praised what he described as the victory of the "ballot of the people over the bullet of terror".

Conspicuously absent at the chaotic town hall ceremony was the Prime Minister's main rival, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, who was said to be meeting the election observer group sent by the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation. She was quoted as telling them: "The election is unjust. I cannot accept the verdict."

Amid speculation that she may challenge the result in the courts, Mrs Bandaranaike was also reported as accusing the Government of intimidating her supporters and fostering violence in an attempt to stop them voting.

According to the Elections Commissioner, Mr Chandranda de Silva, 55.3 per cent of Sri Lankans voted, making it the lowest turnout in the country's independent history. Previous presidential and general elections averaged 83 per cent turnouts.

"It has been the most difficult election we have ever conducted because of various

circumstances, including the killing of two election officials," Mr de Silva said.

Although much lower than in previous years, the turnout was nevertheless higher than many had expected in view of an island-wide boycott, on pain of death, ordered by the Liberation Front.

Of just over 5 million people who voted, 4.6 per cent chose the underdog Sri Lanka People's Party leader, Mr Ossie Abeyagoonasekera; 44.9 per cent Mrs Bandaranaike, and 50.4 per cent Mr Premadasa, the Prime Minister and ruling United National Party candidate.

Among possible reasons for Mrs Bandaranaike's defeat, experienced observers thought that her support was seriously undermined by the very low turnout in the violent south, where the boycott was strongest and where she had widespread backing.

Other factors likely to have contributed to her defeat were her claim towards the end of the campaign last week that there would be a Philippines-style popular insurrection if she lost. She is also thought not to have gained from disclosures that her son, Anura, had held discussions recently with leaders of the Tamil Tiger separatists.

Man in the News

Victory against the odds

Colombo — The new President-elect of Sri Lanka is a diminutive workaholic who never does anything without first consulting his astrologer (Edward Gorman writes). It is a method which has apparently served him well over the years and, he believes, accounts for his meteoric rise against formidable odds.

In a nation dominated by an ancient and divisive caste system, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, aged 64, has achieved what many of his countrymen thought impossible. He was born into the lowest *Hingya* or washerman's caste.

Through sheer hard work — which allows him only four hours' sleep a night — he has broken the mould, becoming the leader of the United National Party traditionally dominated by the elite *Govigama* caste, and now Sri Lanka's second executive President since independence.

Mr Premadasa comes from a working-class Colombo family of the majority Sinhalese Buddhist community. He began political life in the union movement and traded popular backing within the urban working classes for positions of ever-greater importance in the UNP. He became Prime Minister when the outgoing head of state, Mr J. R. Jayewardene, created the modern presidency in 1978. Mr

Premadasa has a gruelling work schedule which begins daily at 4.30 am. He has a reputation for being an achiever and a stickler for detail who can terrify his staff into getting what he wants.

His handling of the Tamil separatist insurgency in the north and east and the revolt in the south by the underground Sinhalese extremists, the JVP, will determine his success or failure as President during the next six years. He has so far given little away on how he intends to deal with the problems, but those who know

him believe he will do all he can to exhaust dialogue before resorting to the use of arms. In his campaign speeches he conspicuously failed to blame the JVP explicitly for violence in the south.

The new President is expected quickly to rid himself of Mr Jayewardene's cronies, many of whom have become tainted with charges of corruption over the years. His Government is expected to place particular emphasis on combating poverty, rejuvenating the economy, and continuing a house building programme that has become a personal crusade for Mr Premadasa.

But for all his qualities, Mr Premadasa, facing a huge task ahead, will also bring to the job weaknesses which could trouble him in the coming years.

He has had very limited experience in foreign policy, an important factor in assessing how he will handle Delhi on the Tamil question. While most observers believe his humble origins will work largely in his favour, some say he may be hampered by lingering resentment and suspicion among the old elite. Undoubtedly, Mr Premadasa will have to overcome widespread distrust of President Jayewardene's increasingly unpopular regime, with which he was closely associated.

Mr Premadasa signalling his win in Colombo yesterday.

Hanoi troops are welcomed home



Vietnamese soldiers waving to villagers in Sa Mat yesterday as they crossed the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. They were part of a week-long operation by Vietnam to withdraw 18,000 troops, including artillery and armoured units, from western Cambodia. It is the biggest reduction in Hanoi's forces in Cambodia during 10 years of helping to fight the Khmer Rouge.

Capitalist spirit pumps life back into old Saigon and provinces

From Humphrey Hawksley, Ho Chi Minh City

The Vietnamese Government has ordered the screening of rural party members in the South after one of the most serious protests against corrupt officials since the takeover of Ho Chi Minh City in 1975.

Several hundred farmers from the fertile Mekong Delta lodged their complaints with senior party members in the capital earlier this month. They told how communist cadres had been taking over land given to peasants when the Communist Government came to power.

The protest prompted such alarm that Mr Nguyen Van Linh, the Communist Party Secretary-General, held a meeting with provincial leaders. As a result, dozens of village officials have been expelled from the party and the land has been returned to the peasants.

The same reforming policies are also changing the face of Ho Chi Minh City, which month by month is being reshaped by the influence of its wealthy, capitalist South-East Asian neighbours.

With a flavour of Joseph Conrad, tramp steamers sail up the Saigon River, many with smuggled goods from Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The restaurants and shops sell Heineken beer, State Express cigarettes, Sony stereos and Wilson tennis rackets. The

authorities turn a blind eye. Hotels with tatty sixties decor are being renovated and now offer night clubs and French food. Small, back-street bars, which kept their doors barely ajar to survive the revolution, are now wide open, playing rock music and switching on Christmas tree lights.

The boulevards are as busy as Regent Street. The markets are packed. Their economy is the black market and, ironically, some of the main instigators are the ethnic Chinese whom 10 years ago the Vietnamese Government was rounding up and towing out to sea in broken down boats because they were considered a threat to the security of newly-united Vietnam.

The boat people are now sending back money so that their relatives who stayed behind can afford to ride along with Ho Chi Minh City's consumer boom.

But in Cholon, the city's Chinatown, memories of the confiscation of businesses in 1978 and the expulsions of the Chinese are still sharp: "I want to leave," said one woman, aged 46. "I have always wanted to leave." Her family runs a restaurant, which is now government-controlled. The woman says that because she was caught trying to flee the country in 1986, she is no longer entitled to a

salary. Her daughter earns the equivalent of £6.50 a month, a meaningless figure given the complexities of the black market.

Judging by Vietnam's eagerness to normalize relations with China and the West, it is unlikely that there will be another campaign against the Chinese. Instead, officials are bracing themselves for the side-effects of the economic reforms — the re-emerging face of old Saigon. The cafes are lively, but child beggars are on the streets. A pretty girl window-shops on the arm of a Czech expatriate who a generation earlier would have been an American. Money changers with wads of notes cheat foreigners on street corners.

"It's very sad," said Mr Vu Tuat Viet. "When we were fighting for independence we could not imagine what would happen. But now we must improve the cultural life, educate the young and control the birth rate."

These policies would, of course, be implemented through the Communist Party, and whatever capitalist life appears to be beating in Ho Chi Minh City, the party will always have the final say. Its stamp is everywhere. A South Vietnamese fighter pilot is now a pedicab driver; an army officer's widow, a beggar.

Peking cracks down on trade corruption

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

Thousands of corrupt Chinese officials who are lining their pockets through their involvement in foreign trade deals are getting their comeuppance, according to yesterday's front-page of the *People's Daily*.

More than 1,000 bureaucrats face criminal prosecution. Another 6,000 have already been punished. Fifty-

six of those involved were described by the paper as "high-ranking". In one case, 71 workers at an aluminium factory spent 800,000 yuan (£130,000) on 14 foreign trips to research one business deal. The vast majority of foreign trade contracts are sound, according to the paper, but "in some foreign trade there are some major weak links and loopholes. There are certainly corrupt officials involved in

international trade who politically and economically exert a very bad influence."

The inquiry by the Ministry of Supervision, which started in June, 1987, has covered every province, 3,000 offices, and looked at foreign trade contracts involving \$US150 billion (£82 billion).

Western businessmen in Peking complain that if they want to do business in China they have to be unethical. But

corruption involving foreign contracts and foreign business people is simply a reflection of the corruption which flourishes at every level of society.

While the Government talks about ending corruption, people are doubtful that will ever happen. One young man said: "A lot complain about backdoor deals, but it's the only way to get by. And if you benefit from it, you're not going to stop it."

Unloading of poisons ship starts

From Our Own Correspondent, Rome

A special squad of Italian workers, dressed like space-men and protected by police, yesterday unloaded the unfortunate Karin B, the poison ship that shuffled around the world this summer in search of a home.

The vessel arrived at Livorno in northern Italy during September after Nigeria (the original destination), Britain, France, Spain and West Germany refused to accept the 14,000-tonne cargo of poisonous Italian chemicals and sludge. Livorno tried its best to resist taking the load but eventually bowed to pressure from Rome.

The port workers, backed by their Communist trade union, have been refusing to handle the cargo of 167 containers, which had been packed indiscriminately by the Nigerians when they found the rotting mountain of poisons at the port of Koko.

There are only five main waste-disposal units in Italy, and even working at full capacity they are no match for the huge volume of waste produced by the country's chemical industry. It is also much cheaper to export the waste to the Third World.

But unscrupulous middle-men, say Green Party members, have been landing huge quantities of unstable and toxic chemicals on unsuspecting countries. The load on the Karin B is not the only such hazard. An even more dangerous cargo, on the Deep Sea Carrier, is still seeking an Italian port which is prepared to unload its poisons.

Japan scandal toll rises

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Mr Hiroshi Matsubara, a former executive of Recruit Cosmos, the property company at the centre of Japan's widening stock-market scandal, yesterday pleaded guilty in a Tokyo court to charges of trying to bribe Mr Yanosuke Narazaki, an opposition MP, to pull his punches during parliamentary debates on the affair.

The case, marking the first time that criminal blame has been attributed to the Recruit company since the scandal blew up last summer, has quickened the pace of the drama and brought home the extent of the influence-peddling that oils business and political life in Japan.

Yesterday's breakthrough

Senior political figures are also sleeping less easily after hearing that Mr Yusuke Yoshinaga is to be Tokyo's next chief public prosecutor. He played a vital role in unravelling the Lockheed scandal, which ended with the arrest of Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the then Prime Minister.

Mr Matsubara's initial ef-

forts to pass off the bribe as a routine political donation dissolved when Mr Narazaki arranged for a television news network secretly to film one of his attempts. The film was shown on the main evening news.

The court is not expected to pass sentence until spring.

The casualty toll in the scandal is growing fast. In less than a fortnight it has fallen Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr Hisashi Shinto, head of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, the world's biggest company.

The calibre of these two men jolted many Japanese into looking at the Recruit affair through new eyes.

Vanuatu crisis deepens

From Christopher Morris, Sydney

The constitutional crisis in the South Pacific republic of Vanuatu deepened last night with the President facing imminent arrest accused of attempted treason and inciting mutiny.

President Sokomanu — who dissolved Parliament last Friday and then appointed the rebel politician, Mr Barak Sope, as Prime Minister on Sunday — has already been reprimanded by the Vanuatu Supreme Court for acting illegally and unconstitutionally. Last night the President, protected by some of Mr Sope's heavily armed supporters, awaited arrest after a special session of Parliament had decided to call an electoral college meeting to sack him

for "gross misconduct". At the same time, a chastened Mr Sope, along with four ministers, faced charges of sedition and making unlawful oaths that could see them imprisoned for five years.

Mr Sope, who has close links with Libya — where many of his men have undergone military training — was arrested at gunpoint on Sunday only hours after being sworn in by the President, who is his uncle. Looking subdued, he claimed he was denied any legal representation by the elected Government of his arch-rival, the Prime Minister, Father Walter Lini.

There are still real fears of a violent backlash and the

opposition claims it could mobilize 2,000 men against Vanuatu's security forces, who have so far remained loyal to Father Lini. The only opposition leader not under arrest, Mr Maxime Carlot, who had been sworn in as Mr Sope's deputy yesterday, surrendered to police, saying that he feared a bloody confrontation.

Last night, Father Lini seemed to be in control again. But Vanuatu remained tense with a dusk-to-dawn curfew in force, and the crisis has led to mass cancellations by tourists — plunging the already shaky economy of Vanuatu into dire trouble. Shopkeepers boarded up their premises because of fears of clashes between rival political groups.

Massive clean-up bill for Shell

San Mateo (Reuters) — A court has ruled that the Shell Oil Company, not its insurers, will have to pay \$1.8 billion (nearly £1 billion) for cleaning up a pesticide plant site in Colorado.

The jury in the San Mateo County Court, California, voted 11-1 that Shell's insurance coverage did not extend to the cost of the clean-up. The action by the Justice Department against Shell was the largest pollution damage suit ever filed.

In 1983, the US Government ordered Shell to clean up the site, on an army range in the Rocky Mountains, and the firm tried to claim the cost of the work from its insurers. The insurance companies argued that they should not have to pay because Shell expected or intended the damage caused by the disposal of toxic wastes. Shell is to appeal.

Fined again

Singapore (Reuters) — A court fined Francis Seow, the Singapore opposition leader and former Solicitor-General, \$4,500 in absentia for evading income tax.

Three killed

Cairo (Reuters) — Egyptian police shot dead three Muslim militants, including Sharif Mohammed Ahmed Sharif, accused of the killing of a policeman earlier this month, in a raid on a Cairo flat, the Middle East News Agency reported.

Sex change

Peking (Reuters) — Hoaxers are cashing in on China's traditional market for boy babies by attaching false male genitals to girls and selling them to gullible peasants, the New China News Agency said.

Safe to travel

Jakarta (Reuters) — Indonesia, which has been battling a sporadic rebellion in East Timor for 12 years, said that travel restrictions to the former Portuguese colony would be lifted on January 1 because the province has been declared safe.

Power cut

Maputo (AFP) — Saboteurs knocked out the power supply from South Africa to Maputo, the Mozambique capital, the State Electricity Company said.

Empty jumbo

Delhi (AP) — An Air India Boeing 747 flew to London without a single passenger on board after a six-hour delay prompted ticket holders to switch to another flight, an airline spokesman said.

Nauru plea

Melbourne (Reuters) — The tiny island nation of Nauru, its landscape ruined by 70 years of mining phosphate to fertilize the farms of Australia, New Zealand and Britain, formally demanded reparations of \$61 million (£33.5 million) from the three nations.

Bill approved

Sydney — The Australian Parliament approved a controversial war-crimes Bill, paving the way for the prosecution of up to 400 Nazis now living in the country.

Bomb found

Johannesburg — Officers of the South African security forces detonated a time-bomb in central Johannesburg after it had been discovered in a hair-dressing salon a few yards from City Hall.

Cashing in

New York (Reuters) — "Happy Birthday to You", one of the most popular songs in English, which brings in an estimated \$1 million (£550,000) a year in royalties, will become the property of Warner Communications after the company acquires Birchtree, the current owner of the copyright, in a \$25 million deal.

Gang rape spotlights a worrying trend in Italian crime

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Maria Carla Cammarata died, the doctors said, of pulmonary infection. But most Italians, most Romans, and even the Vatican, which is professionally cautious in matters of life and death, know that is only half the story.

In truth, Maria Cammarata, aged 31, died three times. The first was on a cold March night this year when she was walking back from a party through that most elegant of Roman squares, Piazza Navona. Three youths stopped her, then raped her.

When a police patrol arrived, she was lying in a small pool of blood, one of the youths was still on top of her, and the others had their trousers down. "What! You get arrested for this kind of thing?" said one as he was led away.

Some months later, the men were put on trial. This was to be the

second death of Maria Carla Cammarata. The proceedings followed the pattern of many such rape trials: that is, defence counsel, to demonstrate the relative innocence of his clients, tried to show the relative guilt of the victim.

Signora Cammarata took drugs, he said, had a drink problem, and had three children from different relationships. "Does anybody really believe," said one of the defendants, "that the accused were bowled over by this Madonna? Struck down by her radiant beauty?"

Signora Cammarata, her perpetually shaking hands slightly nicotine-stained, her complexion sallowne, was not a beauty. But was that at issue? "I would rather have been raped another six times than go through the trial," she said later.

The youths received sentences from eight months to four years, and Maria Carla became the reluctant heroine of the nascent

Women's Movement in Italy and spurred them to establish a rape centre.

The youths were from the Roman suburbs, the prematurely old housing estates that barrack the new Roman proletariat. Here, in the windy stairwells of Primavera, criminals are made early.

To Romans, the Cammarata rape case said something about Italy. Rapists used to be a rarity; they were not, in the popular understanding, an "Italian crime". It was always safe to walk in the historic centre of Rome, but now the suburban violence had invaded the finest piazza of all with its sprinkling of Bernini fountains.

The latest crime survey by the Institute for Political, Economic and Social Studies showed that young Italians, 45 per cent of them under the age of 16, were being sucked into serious crime.

And it was no longer a matter of

shoplifting and bootlegging: more and more teenagers were committing "crimes against the person", which includes robbery with violence but not rape, still classed as a "crime against morals".

The press calls this new breed of criminal "baby-killers". Most offences are drug-related — mugging to raise money for a fix. In Rome, the number of teenagers in jail for drug or drug-motivated crimes has trebled in three years.

Rape falls into a slightly different, perhaps more disturbing, category. Few of the new wave of rapists are on drugs, though most have been drinking. There appears to be a preference for gang rape, in which a coalition of silence is formed. If Signora Cammarata's rapists had not been discovered in flagrante delicto, they would never have reached the courtroom.

The climate of conspiracy is particularly evident in Sicily and

the South, where men will rarely testify against each other, least of all on behalf of a woman. A woman aged 21 in the Sicilian township of Mazzarino was invited to neighbours for a party and in the course of a long evening was raped by 15 teenagers, many under 16.

The trial, by Sicilian standards, was remarkably open and fair, the sentences harsh. But since the trial the woman has been hounded, threatened with death, mocked in the streets, and accused of destroying the lives of 15 Sicilian boys. She took shelter in a Palermo convent, and remains there to this day.

Criminologists at first calculated that the increase in reported rapes was actually a positive trend: it showed that Italian women were no longer afraid to stand up for their rights.

But, according to Signora Giuliana Dal Pozzo, founder of a rape telephone hotline, cases of

rape are also increasing in real terms. Feminists want Parliament to end the legal protection that shields rapists: rape should be fully acknowledged as a violent crime against the person. And it should be easier to bring a husband or lover to court in the event of a rape.

As for Maria Carla, her third, clinical death came a few weeks ago. The Court of Appeal decided that the three rapists, though guilty, were "not socially harmful" and that prison would not serve any further purpose. Their sentence was reduced to the minimum and they were freed.

Four days later Maria Carla Cammarata, who had been in a depression for months, died. The obituaries were tinged with a sadness for Italy, as well as the woman. Perhaps, said the Vatican newspaper, *Osservatore Romano*, "this death was not solely the result of illness".

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December 20 1988

PARLIAMENT

House welcomes decision on Vickers tank

There was a widespread welcome from all parts of the House for the Ministry of Defence's decision to give Vickers the opportunity to prove that its Challenger 2 Mark 2 tank meets the Army's requirement for a battle tank to replace the Chieftain.

In a statement to the Commons, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, said that the Ministry would fund a demonstration phase of the Challenger 2 Mark 2 tank by Vickers Defence Systems until the end of September 1990.

That gave Vickers an excellent opportunity to prove its ability to develop a successful tank within that time. The company would be required to show that the tank could meet the staff requirement; could be successfully developed and produced to the required standard to meet the in-service date; and meet the price the company had already set.

Precise criteria for performance and technical achievement had been established against which the success of the demonstration phase would be measured. An important part would be to show that an improved version of the tank's main gun would be successfully developed to the standard and within the time-scale required.

Intermediate milestones had been established within the demonstration phase at which the company would have to

DEFENCE

demonstrate satisfactory progress. "This staged approach will enable us to keep our options open for the future, if this proves necessary."

Earlier in the statement, Mr Younger said that, in the absence of a suitable international collaborative tank project, the Chieftain tank must be replaced as soon as practicable by a British tank or one developed by an ally. The replacement of the Chieftain tank was to be upgraded by fitting an improved gun, known as Charn.

Three options had been considered: an improved version of the Leopard 2, made by Krauss Maffei, of Germany; an improved version of the Abrams M1, made by General Dynamics, of the US; and the Challenger 2 Mark 2. The three were not at the same stage of development, but all had the potential to meet the Army's requirements.

The size of the investment made it essential to conform to sound procurement practice and minimize risk. Vickers Defence Systems, therefore, was being given an opportunity to demonstrate that it could deliver the Challenger 2 Mark 2 to specification, to time and to cost.

Mr Martin O'Neill, Opposition spokesman on defence, welcomed the announcement. A recent visit to the Vickers factory in Leeds had convinced him that the Government's requirements would be met.

Would Mr Younger confirm that this procedure should not be construed as grading or conditional approval, but would have had to be adopted whichever tank had been chosen?

"We are delighted that our faith in British technology and the workforce at many plants throughout the UK has been vindicated by this welcome announcement."

Mr Younger: This is in no sense a grading acceptance. Indeed, the Challenger 2 Mark 2, if it meets the specifications which the company is confident it will meet, will be an excellent tank.

Mr Michael Heseltine (Henley, C), a former Secretary of State for Defence, said that the decision would maintain the defence capability of this important weapon system and enable Britain to play a continuing role in the next generation of tank production.

Mr Younger's procurement system had imposed a rigorous competitive discipline on such contracts, not the least benefit of which was that the MoD could claim that Britain was the second largest exporter of defence equipment in the world.

Mr Younger expressed gratitude for Mr Heseltine's work on bringing in the competition system, which was doing so much good for the British defence industry.

Mr Menzies Campbell, Democrat spokesman on defence, welcoming the decision, said that Mr Younger had effectively put Vickers on probation. Now



A happy Sir David Plastow, chairman of Vickers, with a model of the Challenger 2 Mark 2 tank yesterday

it was up to Vickers to justify the support that it had received from all sides of the House by producing the tank on time and up to specification so that it would meet the Army's demands.

Mr Younger said he would not use the phrase "on probation". He added: We are giving Vickers the opportunity to prove that this tank is as good as it is sure to be.

Mr Edward Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup, C) sought a categorical assurance that nobody in the MoD or the Army would be allowed to interfere with Vickers while the firm was carrying out the project, by making proposals for amendments to specifications, for instance. The results of continuing

amendments had often been seen in the past.

Mr Younger said that there would be careful specification with Vickers on exactly what the firm was expected to produce on time.

Mr Marjory Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) said that getting this order marked a great deal in Leeds. How could the workforce there play a part during this demonstration period?

Mr Younger said the workforce would have to make sure that its work in the next 21 months produced exactly the yardsticks and standards laid out in the contract.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith (Wealden, C) asked for an

estimate of the total cost of the project.

Mr Younger said that it was expected that the cost to the Government of the demonstration phase would be about £90 million.

Mr Michael Jepling (Westmorland and Lonsdale, C) asked for an assurance that, in view of the past shortcomings of British tanks, this would be the best weapon available to the Army. That was crucial in the decision.

Mr Younger said that he took the point. The Government intended to carry through the demonstration phase until it was proved that the tank was up to the specifications laid down. Until then, the Government retained the option of choosing the best tank. That was the best

guarantee that the tank selected would be the best.

Mr Jerry Wiggin (Weston-Super-Mare, C) asked for an estimate of the total cost if the order were placed with Vickers while he welcomed a modern version of a Second World War weapon, when would the House hear of the next world war weapon, the helicopter?

Mr Younger said that the cost of the order would depend on its size and scale and whether it was in one or more tranches, but it was likely to be well over £1 billion if the new tank were to replace the Chieftain on a one-for-one basis.

The helicopter and the tank had different roles on the battlefield and a balance of both would be required.

British 'have sent the most'

While 77 countries had sent aid to Armenia, the largest cash contributions had come from individual Britons, Mr Paul Marland (West Gloucestershire, C) said during Prime Minister's questions. This showed that the British were generous and warm-hearted people and not selfish and greedy as the Opposition maintained (Labour laughter).

Mrs Thatcher: The response has been generous, both publicly and privately.

Student loans 'too costly'

The proposed top-up loans scheme for students would cost taxpayers more than £600 million by the end of the century without opening up access to higher education, Mr Derek Fatchett, Opposition spokesman on higher education, said during Commons questions.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the aim was not to cut the amount of money spent on higher education. The proposal would increase it. Neither would it reduce access.

PR rejected by Thatcher

The new support for proportional representation merely illustrated the inability of those who favoured it to get elected, Mr Andrew Mackay (East Berkshire, C) said when he found ready agreement from the Prime Minister to his request that she should not set up a constitutional conference on electoral reform.

Mrs Thatcher: I will not set up such a conference. Governments which are elected by that means tend to be weak governments which cannot take decisions. There are too many of them about already.

Insurance offer praised

An offer from the Association of British Insurers to end insurance policies against the consequences of disqualification from driving because of drugs or drink was welcomed by Mr Francis Maude, Under Secretary of State for Trade.

No new policies would be written from December 31 and existing policies would be phased out from December 31, 1990, he said in a written reply.

The Government would legislate if the voluntary agreement did not stop the issue of such policies.

MP takes seat

Mr Steven Norris, who retained Epping Forest for the Conservatives in the Thursday by-election, took his seat in the Commons. His sponsors were Mr David Waddington, the Government Chief Whip, and Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C), the father of the House.

Cost of visits

Mrs Thatcher said in a written answer that the cost of her official visits to the United States of America since she became Prime Minister was £232,345.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland, Official Secrets Bill, second reading.

Lords (2.30): Debate on preservation of historic buildings and treasures.

Opposition pledge on child benefit

The Opposition would provide an opportunity in the new year for the House to vote on the freezing of child benefit, Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said in the Commons.

Tonight it would treat with indifference the proposed increases in benefits for the elderly and the disabled.

Earlier, Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister of State for Social

Security, said during Prime Minister's questions that in the lifetime of the Government, spending on social security had gone up from £17 billion a year to £50 billion. That was a remarkable record. The Government had tried to target help on those who needed it most. She hoped that there would be as much support as possible for the proposed increases.

Security, had reported Labour MPs over their chided intention to vote against rises in pensions and benefits for the disabled to show their anger at the freezing of child benefits. This had been described as an own goal and shooting themselves in the foot.

Mr Scott was moving two social security orders to raise national insurance contributions for the lower paid and their employers and to uprate other benefits.

He said that Labour tended to be obsessed only with the level of the basic state pension, but any pensioner would agree that the issue was much wider than that. The Government had honoured its pledge to protect pensioners from inflation rather than following Labour's path of grand promises which resulted in cruelly dashed hopes when these could not be fulfilled.

Under the Conservatives there had been a steady growth in pensioners' living standards. The Government was encouraging further the spread of occupa-

SOCIAL SECURITY

tional pension funds and personal pensions. In the first seven years of this Government, pensioner incomes rose twice as quickly as those of the working population as a whole, by 23 per cent compared with 3 per cent under Labour.

The Government had decided this year, as it had last year, not to uprate child benefit. That was not a freeze for all time. It might be the last year or the year after the Secretary of State for Social Security would reach a different conclusion.

Child benefit would continue to be paid, as now, to the mother, and a decision would be taken annually whether or not to uprate it and whether or not to uprate it in full or in part.

He accepted that if benefits were to be universal then take-up must be maximized. If they were to be better focused and targeted on those who needed help, there would be problems over take-up.

"My own judgement about this is that if you are running a successful social security system, you should have a judicious mixture of universal and targeted benefits and that must be for the Secretary of State to weigh in the balance at each uprating."

Child benefit, although not uprated this year, remained a very important means of support for families, comprising a tenth of social security expenditure at £4.5 billion a year.

Mr Cook said that under the last Labour Government the pension went up by 20 per cent in real terms over six years. In the nine years that this Government had been in office, the state pension had gone up by a beggarly 2 per cent in real terms.

The orders were approved without a division.

'Community provision must be adequate' Mellor's concern over care

Re-shaping community care could not be long delayed, Mr David Mellor, Minister for Health, told MPs who expressed concern at some patients having to leave mental hospitals for a place in the community.

"I accept that in closing these large institutions, it cannot be to consign patients to the wind. There has to be adequate provision in the community."

This provision was being built up. "There are a lot of marvellous projects. We want more of them. Between us we should be able to find the resources to make that possible."

Miss Dawn Primarolo (Bristol South, Lab) said that people were being transferred from

HOSPITALS

mental hospitals without the necessary service developments in the local authority area to support them.

The whole emphasis had been on the shift of responsibility from the National Health Service to the local authorities, but that strategy had been cruelly undermined.

The Government continued to better local authority finances round the head so that they did not have the money to make the necessary provision.

The tragedy was affecting hundreds of thousands of peo-

ple's lives. The Government claimed to be targeting those in greatest need, but made no progress in this field.

Mr Andrew Rowe (Mid Kent, C) said that there were households in which the carers themselves were in danger of breaking down, particularly through lack of respite.

Mr Tom Clarke, an Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said that Labour's attitude to proper provision for community care represented a challenge to poverty, homelessness and neglect.

They could not place all their faith in the free market. How could they, when in New York it had produced 30,000 former

psychiatric patients on the streets and when they knew the problem in many parts of Britain?

Mr Mellor said that they must be careful not to underestimate the additional provision seen in practical terms. Regarding mentally handicapped people, the hospital population had fallen by about 15,000 between 1976 and 1986, but the number of day-care residential places in the community rose by 50 per cent more than that.

Regarding mental illness, between 1976 and 1986, the number of residential care places had almost doubled and places in day centres increased by almost two thirds.

He asked the Prime Minister to confirm that British forces were in Germany to defend their NATO allies, including Germany.

"We look to the Germans to behave in a more friendly fashion as an old ally," he said.

Mrs Thatcher said that the federal authorities had asked all armed forces stationed there not to hold social events until after the funeral.

"It seemed reasonable, when the host country asked that for a short period, to try to conform. We did so."

Mr Andrew Fawkes (Warley East, Lab): The Americans did not.

Mrs Thatcher: Never mind. We did and I think that that was the right instruction, to comply with the request until after the funeral service on December 15.

● The German request that British forces should not hold parties until after the funeral of those killed when an American aircraft crashed at Rendsburg in West Germany was raised during question time by Sir John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C).

He asked the Prime Minister to confirm that British forces were in Germany to defend their NATO allies, including Germany.

"We look to the Germans to behave in a more friendly fashion as an old ally," he said.

Mrs Thatcher said that the federal authorities had asked all armed forces stationed there not to hold social events until after the funeral.

"It seemed reasonable, when the host country asked that for a short period, to try to conform. We did so."

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Police should be only ones to decide on shotgun licences, says Kinnoch

The police should be the total decision-makers on the issue of shotgun licences, Mr Neil Kinnoch, Leader of the Opposition, said during Prime Minister's questions.

Loud Conservative laughter and interruptions greeted his observation and he added, emphatically, "Oh Yes."

His remark came after Mr David Williams (Walsall North, Lab) had said that it was unacceptable to public opinion that convicted criminals and a known associate of criminals should have his shotgun licence given back to him by judicial authorities [On Monday, the High Court ruled that a man with convictions for assault and a prison record could have his shotgun certificate back].

"Bearing in mind the tragic events in Coventry yesterday - and I pay full tribute to the bravery of the police officers involved - it is essential that controls on shotguns should be far tighter than in the pending legislation."

Mrs Thatcher: The decision of the court was taken under the Firearms Act, 1968, but the 1968 Act contains much tougher controls, but does not come into force until next year.

A Labour MP: Not tough enough.

Mrs Thatcher: We clearly all wish to thank the police for their bravery and courage in the face of great danger.

Mr Roger Gale (Thames North, C) had asked the Prime Minister to discuss with the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, the need for legislation to prohibit entirely the issue of firearms licences to convicted criminals.

Mrs Thatcher: It is best to get the new Act fully into operation. The police are able to refuse a licence if the applicant has no reason to have a shotgun. They have also to be satisfied that there is no threat to public safety.

● High-powered, self-loading rifles; burst-fire weapons and repeating, short-barrelled, smooth-bore guns will be raised to the category of prohibited weapons from February 1 under the Firearms (Amendment) Act, 1988, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said in written answer.

This was one of a number of provisions of the Act to come into effect on that day. Remaining provisions will take effect in mid-1989.

Further questions to the Prime Minister included:

Dalyell refuses to break off attack

Commons sitting is suspended

THE EEC



Mr Dalyell: Appointment was pay-off for Mr Brittan

The all-night sitting was suspended for seven minutes early on Tuesday after a Labour MP refused to break off an attack on the fitness of Mr Leon Brittan, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to become a European Commissioner.

Mr Tony Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) said that the appointment was a "second-best compromise pay-off" for Mr Brittan, who resigned from the Cabinet during the Westland affair.

The suspension was ordered by the Deputy Speaker (Mr Harold Walker), who had repeatedly interrupted Mr Dalyell's speech, urging him not to denigrate Mr Brittan's character.

When the sitting was resumed, Mr Dalyell said that he did not wish to embarrass the chair, especially as there were not enough MPs present to carry a motion to suspend him if he had been "named". He then left the chamber, saying: "I withdraw to facilitate matters."

The debate was opened by Mr Raymond Whitney (Wyecombe, C), a former Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who said that the Prime Minister's speech was very popular in the United Kingdom, but that was not

entirely a matter for congratulation.

It was particularly regrettable to find that industry was confused because one Government department was totally committed and enthusiastic about the

principle of developing the European market and yet significantly different noises were coming out of Numbers 10 and 11.

Mr Dalyell said that Mr Leon Brittan had a cloud hanging over him. He ought certainly not to be Britain's vice-president of the Commission, let alone Commissioner for Financial Institutions.

He had treated his civil servants, his Cabinet colleagues and his Prime Minister, about a law officer's letter, in a way that was not acceptable to the House.

"If he is to go to the commission, I think we should agree that he should go proud, that he should go clear, that he should go absolved from all blame of misleading his colleagues in Parliament on any occasion or, in particular, during the Westland affair."

"As things stand, he is the scapegoat. Nobody else has carried the can. As things stand, it is a disgrace to our country and our Parliament that a colleague should be going to a most prestigious job that Britain can offer to any of our countrymen in the Community until this affair has been cleared up one way or the other."

"No other minister ever on any occasion has treated a select committee of this House of Commons as Mr Brittan treated the select committee on Westland."

"None of us who witnessed it have, in a parliamentary lifetime, seen behaviour so comparable with the arrogant stone-walling (by) which Mr Brittan refused to answer legitimate questions put by parliamentary colleagues."

"Why? The appointment is a reward forced on the Prime Minister in recognition of the greatest service that a Cabinet minister in such circumstances can render to an occupant of Downing Street."

Mr Brittan had been the recipient of a unique correspondence which ended: "I hope it will not be long before you return to high office and continue your ministerial career."

The Prime Minister had never said that to anyone before. This was unique.

Mr Timothy Eggar, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that the bedrock of the Prime Minister's speech in Bruges was a clear statement that Britain's destiny was in Europe and that Britain was in the Community as any other member.

During the controversy over the proposed sale of the Mappa Mundi at Hereford Cathedral he had been accused of being sick with advertising and marketing men saying that money would flood in

If the Government could find millions of pounds for eggs, why could it not find the £50 million needed by cathedrals to ensure that they would continue to delight and uplift future generations, Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) asked during a short debate early on Tuesday morning.

He said that any government had a public obligation on behalf of the people.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the Church of England could make representations to English Heritage if it felt that cathedrals should no longer be excluded from state aid given by the organization to churches.

Mr Robert Key (Salisbury, C) led a number of MPs in calling for Government financial support for the maintenance of cathedrals.

He said that cathedrals were now appealing for more than £50 million and could not properly plan sensible programmes of fabric restoration.

During the controversy over the proposed sale of the Mappa Mundi at Hereford Cathedral he had been accused of being sick with advertising and marketing men saying that money would flood in

CHURCH FUNDS

If only the cathedral would "market itself properly".

It was futile to try to attract visitors to cathedrals where there were so many inadequacies, including poor access and inadequate parking.

Why were cathedrals being discriminated against in funding?

One solution was to extend to cathedrals the existing pound-for-pound funding available for listed parish churches.

Another was to establish a new endowment funding system along the lines of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Mr Cormack said that there was a limit to what appeals could achieve.

The Government should talk to deans and chapters of cathedrals about acquiring some of their treasures, leaving them in situ and accepting responsibility for their upkeep.

The money paid for the treasures could be used as an endowment by which the cathedrals' daily needs could be met.

Mr John Shepherd (Hereford, C) said that the way in which the Mappa Mundi prob-

lem had taken people like him by surprise was "represensible".

This problem represented the tip of the iceberg.

He was attracted by the sort of solution to the general problem as proposed by Mr Key.

He hoped that the minister would ask English Heritage to reconsider its approach to Hereford Cathedral.

Mrs Bottomley said that English Heritage was maintaining practice established in 1977 when state aid for historic churches was introduced.

The Church of England at that time had recommended that parish churches should be given priority because it felt that cathedrals, because of their prominence, were better placed than churches to raise large sums from the public and other private sources.

No important cathedral-restoration appeal had yet failed.

However, if the Church of England felt that circumstances had changed so radically since 1977 and that the basis of the policy of excluding cathedrals was out of date, it was up to the church to make representations to English Heritage which would happily discuss it.

Make discover

Celia Ward

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SPECTRUM

Make big mistakes, discover small truths

Colin Ward mourns the destruction of small enterprises in Britain, and considers the lessons to be learnt from Italy



PART 3

The traditional city had a fine grain, providing a huge range of goods and services in small workshops, factories and warehouses. Sheffield was famous for its "little masters", Birmingham for its gunsmiths and jewellers. Slowly, with the concentration of ownership and the increase in industrial scale, the small enterprise economy was ignored.

The post-war decline of the small workshop sector was a result less of market forces than of a sinister combination of official

policies and land speculation. In the large-scale redevelopment of cities, small industry was seen as a squalid nuisance and its importance in providing both jobs and purchasing power was unnoticed.

Until the 1970s, train travellers in central London would look down on a dense network of small factories. Then came the property boom, and the sites became more valuable than the industries which sat on them. Today's traveller sees a wall of office buildings, providing employment - but not

for local, skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers.

It is the loss of these jobs that constitutes the inner-city employment problem. We have slowly rediscovered the importance of the small business sector, yet the errors of the 1950s and 1960s are being repeated. The Government does not specifically require its chosen vehicle, the Urban Development Corporation, to create jobs. The Commons all-party select committee on employment found that the London Docklands Development Corporation had, in

fact, destroyed thousands of existing blue-collar jobs.

Italy provides an intriguing contrast. The Italian manufacturing economy has weathered the storms of the past 15 years better than most and the industrial renaissance of the north-east and central areas, based on the emergence of thousands of very small workshops, offers a lesson.

Their success has not been accidental. As long ago as the 1950s there was agreement among all political factions at a city and regional level to encourage small

enterprise. The Cassa Artigiana was founded to provide credit at 1½ to 2 per cent, with the result that most workers are employed in factories with fewer than 50 employees, with an increasing number in small workshops.

The workshops vary enormously. Some house craft activities which have by-passed the industrial revolution and whose products are still in demand. Others follow the familiar sweatshop pattern; they are the result of former factory workers setting up hi-tech operations for larger manufacturers, or are created where entrepreneurs have found a market for finished goods, such as textiles in Capri or shoes in Rimini.

Thousands of these small workshops are organized in co-operatively owned bodies such as the Confederazione Nazionale dell'Artigiano, which in the province of Emilia-Romagna alone is involved in training and management and keeps the books of 60,000 firms and handles 120,000 pay slips a month. It also guarantees credit and arranges export marketing.

The economic life of Emilia-Romagna, where more than a third of the workforce is self-employed and where incomes are the highest in Italy, symbolizes attitudes to the skill and autonomy of the individual worker that are scarcely grasped in our patronizing British approach.

In Bologna, for example, I talked to Ennio Mazzanti, whose precision equipment must be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. He worked on the bench for 10 years in a motor-cycle factory and then bought one lathe and one vertical drilling machine to start up on his own.

Now he, his son and three employees do one specialist operation for five different assemblers, paying the same standard wage as any other firm, and expecting to pay for the plant in 10 years. He relies on a few overheads and pooled paperwork.

An assumption in Italy, where I saw the awesomely vast and decrepit original Fiat factory at Lingotto, is that manufacturing industry can survive through

decentralization. In Britain every former manufacturing city grasps desperately at theme parks, science parks, garden festivals, heritage centres or museums of industrial history, just to grab some secondary or service jobs for redundant industrial workers. It is taken for granted that prosaic consumer goods, whether washing machines or motor cycles, can only be produced abroad.

TOMORROW

Moving towards a better inner city

Colin Ward, the author of this series, is the winner of the first Charles Douglas-Horne Memorial Trust Award, instituted to commemorate the Editor of The Times from 1982 to 1985. Ward received the award for research into the revival of Britain's inner cities. The resulting book, *Welcome, Thinner City*, from which this series is adapted, will be published by Bedford Square Press in September 1989.

Can a city which has been shattered by an earthquake rebuild a safer tomorrow? Ivor Davis and Sally Brompton investigate

Building for a shaky future

The bleak nightly news footage from the earthquake devastated regions of the Soviet Union has been watched with more than usual empathy by the 28 million residents of America's most populous state. For California is earthquake country, and the "it could happen here" feeling is more than a passing thought.

Many Californian experts predict that "the Big One", a quake in the region of 6.5 on the Richter Scale (the Armenian quake registered 7) is inevitable. A quake of that size has a 50-50 chance of happening on the southern section of the San Andreas fault line within the next 30 years, according to a report prepared for the National Security Council. The resulting death toll is predicted at between 3,000 and 13,000 people, depending on the time of day.

The only comfort, if comfort can be had, is the fact that California's builders and engineers are enforcing what they call the "toughest earthquake safety building regulations in the world".

When a huge number of deaths occur in a quake - as was the case in Armenia - they are usually caused by the collapse of buildings, resulting in thousands of victims being buried. "Unfortunately," says Franklin Lew, manager of the City of San Francisco's earthquake safety division, "in Russia and other parts of the world, the pre-cast concrete method of construction is still used."

Even in San Francisco it was not until 42 years after the devastating 1906 quake, which almost destroyed the city, that the town fathers decreed that new buildings needed earthquake safety measures. Now the city is undergoing an unprecedented building boom.

One of the most dramatic buildings on the city's skyline is the 48-storey Transamerica Pyramid, which was built in 1967 with earthquake resistant foundations. The office block sits on a huge concrete foundation "mat" built only 20ft into the ground, which was constructed bottom heavy to resist overturning in an earthquake.

Shaking, rattling and rolling are part of the daily life of Californians. Huge earthquake faults, including the



Safe and sound? The Transamerica Pyramid, in San Francisco

famous San Andreas, run from northern California to the south, making it one of the most active quake areas in the world. The California Institute of Technology records up to 15,000 quakes of various sizes each year and, before stricter building codes were introduced, enormous damage could occur.

The experts agree that, if they could start from scratch and rebuild all the cities, some 90 per cent of deaths and damage caused by quakes could be avoided. Since that is impossible, most Californian cities and those in neighbouring states have the *Blue Book*, a 60-page bible for new building which spells out the codes for everything from skyscrapers to family homes.

Quakes, the Californian experts argue, might be un-

predictable - but death and damage can be controlled. Franklin Lew says: "Most new high-rise buildings have foundations which are supported on piles driven 40 to 150 ft or more into the ground. These are designed to resist uplift, and to prevent the building from tipping over. For a building to topple, the piles would have to be ripped out of the ground." In addition, all high-rise buildings in California must be built with steel framing, steel columns and girders.

In the construction of houses, California decrees that wood-framed buildings - a common form of construction in earthquake country - be braced with plywood walls tied to anchor bolts linked into the foundations. Houses built in this way might slide

off their foundations in a quake, but they do not disintegrate as they did in the Soviet Union. Houses built with 18 in or more of footing, and with steel and wood frames, sway but do not fall.

Despite the new, tougher codes, there are both in San Francisco and Los Angeles thousands of older brick and masonry buildings that do not come up to standard. Most were built long before the new rules. In 1981, the city of Los Angeles finally passed an ordinance requiring that almost 8,000 unreinforced masonry buildings including schools and hospitals be upgraded. But it will be 15 years at least before all buildings can be brought up to minimum standards. And in the rest of California there are 100,000 or more buildings that would not fare well in a quake.

In order to prod other communities into action, California passed a bill requiring all cities and counties up to 50 miles on either side of the San Andreas Fault to look at their older buildings and suggest improvements.

In my own backyard, the city of Ventura, there is a huge battle going on involving owners of commercial buildings in the downtown area who complain that they cannot afford to upgrade their premises. The city has relented slightly and given them more time to do the work - so that it will be another decade before the buildings are strengthened.

That is precisely California's main problem. The strict building codes exist, but through lax supervision, the rules are sometimes not worth the paper they are written on. In San Francisco, Michael Prasker, a geotechnical engineer who specializes in building skyscrapers, admits that even in the construction of multi-million dollar hotels and offices, builders often try to cut corners when it comes to earthquake safety.

"Building precisely to the code increases the cost of construction - which can mean millions of dollars when you are involved in putting up a major structure. As long as the almighty dollar looms, corners will be cut. Some feel that when the Big One comes they will no longer be here... so they won't have to worry."

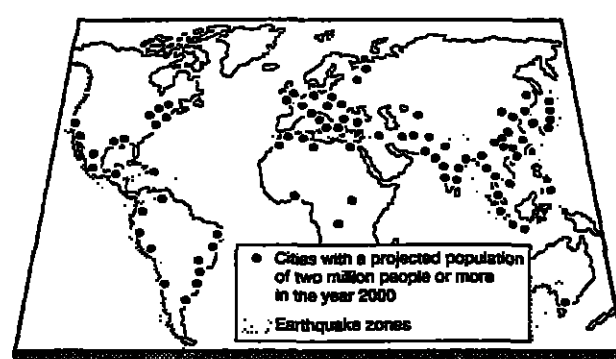
With more than 100 national earthquake codes in existence, there seems little excuse for constructing the kind of flimsy buildings which crumbled in Armenia.

But as Russia's leading architects and earthquake specialists formulate their strategy for rebuilding, many world experts are doubtful whether the new cities will be significantly more stable than the old.

It is not the scientific know-how which is in question, but human vulnerability. According to Dr David Key, a consulting engineer and earthquake expert: "The technology to build earthquake resistant buildings is quite well developed. What we don't know how to do is how to make people do what they are supposed to do."

Key, who heads a research fellowship at Bristol University which is currently involved in earthquake research, adds: "The Russians have a perfectly reasonable earthquake code to work to, but it is inconceivable that all those buildings in Armenia had been built to it. And if you can't enforce that sort of thing in such a highly organized society, I don't know where you can."

Nicholas Ambraseys, the



A human danger that still lives on

professor of engineering seismology at Imperial College, London, points to countries such as Greece, Turkey and Italy where small houses in rural areas are frequently built under the supervision of the owner "who tries to cut corners in order to cut costs, and who is entirely unaware of what nature has in store for him".

Nor has the situation necessarily been improved in cases where governments have tried to help individuals by giving them money or low-interest loans to rebuild their properties.

There is also the temptation in a situation such as that in Armenia to rebuild as quickly as possible. "I think the Russian solution will be to provide widespread housing in a hurry by using prefabricated large-panel construction," says Edmund Booth, a consulting engineer specializing in earthquake engineering. "With that type of construction it is difficult to make the joints between the panels sufficiently strong."

After an earthquake in Yugoslavia in the early 1960s, three-quarters of the popula-

tion of the stricken area were evacuated for up to five years in order to rebuild their city. While new buildings were substantially stronger, there was a problem... many of the children were unable to understand the local dialect when they returned home.

The required resistance of constructions to earthquakes can vary according to use, and rules are well established in more developed countries such as the United States and Japan. "What usually happens is that you divide engineering structures into three categories," Ambraseys says. "The lowest is dwellings - you're prepared to have an almost total loss of the building, providing it does not collapse. The second category is places of public gathering such as schools, museums, and galleries, which are built to resist with limited damage."

"The third and most important group consists of dams and nuclear power plants, which are designed to survive with very limited damage."

Ambraseys adds: "It is difficult to say what will happen in Armenia. Serious problems can arise during reconstruction because many of the dwellings will be repaired but not strengthened. Some people will be living in houses which are safe, and some not."

The soapy facts of life

Delivering the results of lengthy research, Dr Maive Messenger Davies has told a conference organized by the British Psychological Society that soap operas are useful in letting children discover how adults behave.

Those of us of a generation to have learnt all we know of life from a daily viewing of ATV's *Crossroads* can only stand and applaud her robust conclusions. In the 18th century, Lord Chesterfield was forced to write daily letters of advice to his son; nowadays, he can save himself much time and bother simply by playing him videos of past episodes of *Crossroads*.

Indeed, "Mr Brown's Extracts of Advice From *Crossroads* Videos To His Daughter" seems set to become a vital learning tool for the youngsters of today. A close study of twings-and-

froings at *Crossroads* Motel will teach an entire new generation all that I have learnt of life, including:

● In adult life, most marriages are destined to end within a few months, generally for one of two reasons:

(a) The husband is shot in cold blood by a gang of ruthless killers of a Midlands motel. Your husband will be kidnapped by Australian terrorists, your ex-husband, who you believed to be dead, will turn up unexpectedly with murder on his mind, and your motel will be subjected to weekly fires, armed raids and threats of blackmail.

● Whenever anything devastating happens in adult life, as it will daily at 5.25pm, you will be expected to stop talking mid-paragraph, a look of horror on your face, while a small orchestra plays a signature tune, only to resume your speech at 5pm the next day.

Questioned last night over whether or not a Happy Christmas is desirable, Mr Neil Kinnock appeared to give some comfort to the growing Unhappy Christmas lobby



CRAIG BROWN

when he said: "If, by changing attitudes to Christmas we as a party could respond to the national demands to such a matter, then I can see no reason why, at some time in the future, given the right conditions, and I am now speaking hypothetically, we should not begin to think along these lines."

This was interpreted by Unhappy Christmas pressure groups as an unprecedented declaration of change in the party's attitude. "We have long argued that Christmas is a time to be grim, and we are delighted, or at least less miserable than usual, that this looks like becoming official Labour policy," said a spokesman.

But later last night Mr Kinnock hit back at "wild misinterpretation of his earlier statement". "I made it quite clear that if the broad majority of reasonable people favoured a moderately and sensibly Unhappy Christmas, then there might be reason to investigate the possibilities of imaginatively extending our Happy Christmas policy to incorporate some specific aspects of an Unhappy Christmas," said a furious Mr Kinnock. "I only wish that people would listen to what I actually say."

NEW YEAR ISSUE 1989

New Woman

The truth about SEX, SUCCESS AND SINGLE WOMEN. A special survey.

When PASSION turns to OBSESSION. One woman's nightmare story.

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Sexual intrigue in RACHEL BILLINGTON'S brilliant short story.

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TIMES DIARY

MARTIN FLETCHER

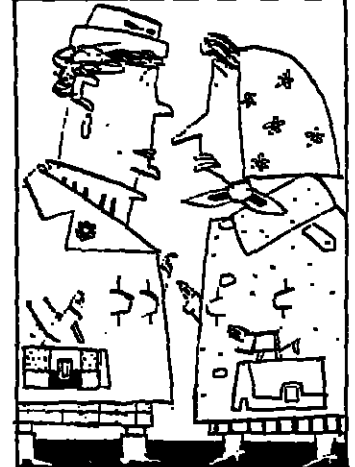
A significant election took place within the Parliamentary Labour Party last Wednesday, but passed unnoticed by the wider world. It was for the post of trustee of the £839,000 of public funds or "Short Money" that the party receives each year. The "establishment" candidate, former Cabinet minister Merlyn Rees, was surprisingly defeated 65-49 by Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokington), whose secretive but highly organized campaign secured wide backbench support. Why did Campbell-Savours win? First, because he is a member of the Commons Public Accounts committee, has a keenly inquiring mind, and is fiercely independent. Second, because there is suspicion among Labour backbenchers of the way in which this money appears to be parcelled out among members of the Shadow Cabinet and the Leader's office. Party officials insist that the distribution process is entirely above board and all shadow ministers get the same. Campbell-Savours would not comment. One leading plotter asserted: "The Parliamentary party should allocate the money, not the leadership. It's all a question of accountability, and we need somebody to keep an eagle eye on what is going on."

By way of a Christmas gift, accountants Coopers & Lybrand have sent MPs a 1989 calendar with a cartoon for every month. "This calendar will, we hope, be an amusing reminder of the firm if you need assistance in any particular area," says the accompanying letter from the chairman, Brandon Gough. Alas, female Labour MPs have found nothing remotely amusing in the cover cartoon, which shows a boss discovering his secretary spreadeagled across a desk. "It's disgracefully vulgar," says Jo Richardson, Labour's spokesperson on women. With eight of her colleagues she has reported Coopers & Lybrand to the Advertising Standards Authority.

Make of this what you will. The office of Employment Secretary Norman Fowler last week wrote to Labour agriculture spokesman Ron Davies to say he had addressed a written parliamentary question to the wrong department. "...Projections for the employment potential of forestry in rural areas in England is primarily a matter for the Secretary of State for Wales," he was told.

Let me add my mite to the Edwina Currie saga. Three hours after receiving her resignation on Friday, Mrs Thatcher attended the annual Commons children's party organized by the parliamentary press corps. She did so on one express condition — that no one asked her about eggs. Meanwhile, a dozen Tory MPs can be expected to celebrate Mrs Currie's departure with a feast. Led by Langhaugh MP Richard Holt and Wirral's Barry Porter, they are members of the so-called Currie Club which, despite her demise, will live on as a memorial to her inimitable style. It was set up after her notorious lambasting of the northern diet, for the specific purpose of enabling its members to eat what they want without being nagged or berated. It meets for a monthly stodgy dinner. Its one cardinal rule is that Mrs Currie's name is never uttered.

BARRY FANTONI



Labour's Bruce Millan, who becomes Britain's second European commissioner next month, must be feeling pretty sorry. Obligated to resign early as Glasgow Govan's MP so that his party could call a snap election, he not only saw the SNP overturn his 19,000 majority but has been deprived of his parliamentary salary for the past two months. Leon Brittan, our other prospective commissioner, will suffer no such deprivation. Though the House rises for the Christmas recess tomorrow, he will continue to represent his Richmond constituency until the very last minute. He will resign as an MP on Saturday, December 31, and start his new job in Brussels on Monday, January 2.

How did the BBC get Edward Heath on to *Desert Island Discs* last Sunday, and why did interviewer Sue Lawley find him so unusually mellow and relaxed and ready to talk about his private life? Probably because the programme's producer, Olivia Seligman, is his godson's sister and the daughter of his old and loyal friend, the Euro-MP Madron Seligman.

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in the Tory party, even among the dissidents. MPs are rushing to cash in on the arrival of television cameras in the Commons. David Davis (Bouthferry) has been signed up by the BBC to produce a plain man's guide to the place and its procedures. Julian Critchley (Aldershot) is planning a similar layman's guide. Both will be competing with the inside knowledge of John Biffen, former Leader of the House, who is writing a third, anecdote-laden guide for Grafton Books, in which Labour left-winger Dennis Skinner is upheld as an arch-enemy of parliamentary cunning. The slowness of the committee charged with setting up the television experiment is meanwhile playing havoc with publication dates. The experiment has been delayed until next autumn. So has Biffen's book.

When Mrs Thatcher brought back Peter Walker from the political wilderness and installed him as Minister of Agriculture in 1979 she offered to upgrade the ministry to a department — which would have made him a secretary of state.

Walker saved the country a small fortune in signwriter's bills by declining, telling friends that he fancied being "the only minister in Margaret Thatcher's cabinet". The eggs affair has shown how wise Mrs Thatcher has been not to repeat the upgrading offer. It would be much too grand a title for the Whitehall branch office of the National Farmers' Union.

Officially it is MAFF, or the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. But the Food part of that title, with its implied responsibility to consumers, seems to be tossed overboard any time it might bring the ministry into conflict with bodies like the egg producers.

To many MPs, the spectacle of MAFF sitting, fetching and chasing with gun-dog docility these past few weeks at the behest of its chief clients has been disturbing. Tories represent towns too, and many, who hold no particular brief for Mrs Edwina Currie, have also been disturbed by the spectacle of MAFF joining a pack which included the envious and the anti-semitic as well as the genuinely outraged. There is

a growing feeling on Tory back benches that the low-towing to the farmers has been overdone.

Surely, the doubters say, some loyalty is owed to colleagues in trouble even if they are in other departments. Instead of accepting the first egg industry protests at face value and encouraging the hue and cry after Mrs Currie, why didn't the Ministry of Agriculture tell the egg producers and their friends that they were making things a thousand times worse for themselves by the fuss they were making?

After all, there was no slump in chip butte sales when Mrs Currie lectured northerners on their diet. The more the egg industry screamed that sales were plummeting the more the public thought there must be something in the scare stories.

Of course there must be sympathy with the plight of many egg producers who, with their staff, face a threat to their livelihoods. Of course John MacGregor, the Agriculture Minister, had to act to stabilize the industry, and he has done so

with commendable speed. But it is possible to reconcile Mrs Currie's much criticized remark that "most egg production" is contaminated with salmonella with MacGregor's carefully worded insistence that it is not the case that "most eggs" have salmonella. Egg production involves the whole chain, including what most people would regard as the disgusting process of feeding hens on the carcasses of dead chickens reprocessed in feed plants.

If Mrs Currie's statement overrode the public alarm, is not MacGregor being somewhat disingenuous in peddling a figure of 1,000 cases of salmonella food poisoning a year while ministers admit it to be an underestimate — especially when medical experts say that as few as one case in ten may be recorded?

MacGregor is a highly intelligent and able minister seen as a potential Chancellor. But some colleagues recall that even when he was at the Treasury his favourite reading was *Farmers Weekly*. He has a Norfolk

constituency and they wonder if he does not have a little too much mud on his boots to make him as tough at dealing with the farming lobby as he is with the bureaucrats of Brussels.

By contrast, a minister who, whatever her other faults, showed real concern on public health hazards and had an impressive record in health education has lost her job for drawing attention to the fact that it is not safe, on official government advice, for old people, babies and others not in robust health to eat uncooked eggs. She overrode it, but if it had been left to the Ministry of Food to make them aware of the danger would anybody ever have noticed?

We have the claims by Sir Richard Body, a farmer and former chairman of the Agricultural Select Committee, that in 1981 the MAFF watered down regulations intended to cut the risk of salmonella infection after protests from client industries at the potential cost.

It is clear that the most stringent guidelines are needed

on what food may be given to hens in a business in which margins are slim, competition is intense and the temptation to go for the cheapest option rather than the healthiest practice is always there. But the Ministry of Agriculture, claiming it is quicker that way, has given us only voluntary codes in December to tackle a problem known about for much of the year.

It has cut financial support for key research into the prevention of salmonella on the grounds that "near to market" research should be done by the industry itself. Fine. A careful hand on the public purse-strings is part of overall government policy. But what is it doing to ensure that research is carried out?

And some Tories find it curious for a government believing so fervently in market forces to be throwing £20 million compensation at the egg producers because the public have exercised their choice and stopped buying so many eggs. It is, after all, the industry whose own practices in breeding and

feeding have produced the health threat which has led to the current scare. As one minister put it: "Edwina may have exaggerated the problem but she didn't invent it". Which other industry could expect the same handout treatment if some complaint about the safety of its products led to a slump in sales?

The effectiveness of the farming lobby has ensured that no rates are paid on agricultural land. Unlike other polluters, farmers using chemical fertilizers and pesticides do not have to pay for their extraction from water supplies.

We have seen of late how determinedly Labour intends to pursue a new status as the party of the consumer. On Barlow Clowes it was Tony Blair who spoke up for the small investor. On electricity and water privatization it is Labour that warns of the cost to the ordinary consumer. On credit card interest rates Gordon Brown is making the running.

Labour began the eggs affair ideologically, so besotted with the idea of driving out Mrs Currie that it failed to see the opportunities in being seen to press for better public health protection in egg production.

Now, once again, the Tories look like the party of the big battalions and Labour has the opportunity to step in on the consumer's side.

Robin Oakley sees a chance for Labour in the egg controversy

Farmers ruling the roost

Conor Cruise O'Brien

Last chance for Hillsborough

Extradition from the Irish Republic to Britain in "political" cases has broken down. Patrick Ryan is not going to be extradited. And the wording of the Irish Attorney General's ruling suggests that no other terrorist suspect whose case has attracted public attention and comment is likely to be extradited in the future.

I regret this. A few days before the Attorney General's ruling I wrote an article in the *Irish Independent*, the Republic's largest-selling newspaper, advocating Ryan's extradition to face trial in Britain. I got little public support, even from the not-insignificant section of public opinion that normally goes along with much of what I have to say. The opposition, and public opinion in the Republic, support the Haughey government's stand on this matter, with only insignificant qualifications.

The fact is that public opinion in the Republic is basically ambivalent about the IRA and about co-operation with the British against it. And British pressure on an Irish government to extradite IRA suspects always brings the negative elements in that ambivalence to the surface. Handing over "one of our own" to be tried by "them" goes against the grain of Irish history, as understood by most Irish Roman Catholics. And the more those negative elements in Irish ambivalence are aroused the more they are likely not merely to reject extradition but to call into question the very basis of security co-operation with the British against the IRA.

A recent poll in the Republic shows that Haughey's personal popularity has soared to an unprecedented 62 per cent, apparently as a result of saying "No" to Mrs Thatcher. Not a good omen for the future of extradition, or for anything else. Mrs Thatcher, obviously, has scant patience with Irish ambivalence. Her personal freedom from ambivalence of any kind is part of her strength. I don't blame her for expressing her impatience in forthright terms, and I don't think the outcome in

the Ryan case would have been any different had she been less forthright. But, for the reasons I have indicated, a British effort, in present circumstances, to resume extradition through sustained pressure on Dublin would probably have the reverse effects to those intended. That is, it would bring aid and comfort to the IRA by lending credibility to its propaganda.

Ambivalence, like it or not, is part of the Irish scene: a residue both of the realities and of the myths of Irish history. When Mrs Thatcher entered into the Anglo-Irish agreement she unwittingly made a pact with ambivalence and with ambiguity.

Not surprisingly, after three years' experience, she is disappointed with the results of the pact. Soon after it was signed, she told the Commons that it would strengthen the union with Northern Ireland. Her Dublin partners did not contradict her, but they were thinking along quite different lines. They knew that the agreement would subject the union to severe strain by deeply offending all the Unionists, the only people in the province who feel a sense of loyalty to the Crown and the British connection.

The Irish side also knew — as the British side apparently did not — that the fine words about "ending the alienation of the minority", so often heard in the heyday of Hillsborough, did not mean that the "moderate" section of the minority was about to co-operate with the security forces against the IRA. That did not happen; nor did the violence diminish. In fact it grew.

At the time of the second anniversary of the agreement a week after the Poppy Day massacre at Enniskillen — Sir Charles Carter accurately diagnosed the condition of Northern Ireland under the agreement. "The agreement," he declared, "has alienated the majority, without reconciling the minority."

After Enniskillen, Mrs Thatcher apparently realized that the agreement had, to say



the least, done no good inside Northern Ireland. But she clearly still put some trust in Article 9 (a) which speaks of "enhancing cross-border co-operation on security matters."

Here also her trust has been misplaced. Under the conditions prevalent in the Republic public discussion of security co-operation — which greatly increased after Hillsborough — tends to be inimical to its actual practice, as the debate over the Ryan case abundantly illustrates. In the past, as under Eamon De Valera, security co-operation worked best in practice when it was never discussed in public.

If Ryan is to be brought to trial

— as the *prima facie* evidence suggests he should be — it can now only be in the Republic. I agree with that part of the article in *The Times* last Thursday by John Kelly, the Republic's former attorney general, in which he argued that Britain should now make use of the provisions of the Irish Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act of 1976. That Act was intended as a substitute for extradition, which was at that time considered in the Republic to be unconstitutional in "political" cases.

Since then, extradition has been found to be constitutional, but it has also proved to be virtually unworkable, given the

state of Irish public opinion. The substitute alone remains (at least in the Ryan case). If the British government will not now make use of that substitute, Ryan will not go on trial, anywhere. That seems a pity.

John Kelly concluded by speaking of the need not to place "a further burden... upon the tender growth of the Hillsborough agreement". He will forgive me if I fail to shed a tear. To my eye, that "tender growth" looks very like a weed. In the garden of Anglo-Irish relations we already have God's plenty of those.

Still, one last effort might, perhaps, be made to extract

something of value, in security terms, from the bedraggled document that was signed at Hillsborough amid so much political euphoria three years ago. The British side could put on the agenda of the inter-governmental conference the question of contingency plans for the implementation of internment, on both sides of the border, should both governments find such a measure expedient.

Unlike extradition, internment is not necessarily a dirty word in the Republic.

Both Eamon De Valera and Sean Lemass, prime minister from 1959-66, used internment effectively against the IRA. And everyone knows that if ever the IRA campaign spreads into the Republic, internment will be brought into force immediately. There don't appear, therefore, to be any grounds on which the representatives of the Republic could refuse to discuss contingency plans for the possible introduction of internment, on both sides of the border. And it is highly unlikely that the IRA campaign can be brought to an end unless and until internment can be brought into operation by both governments.

Grounds or not, the Republic's representatives might still refuse to discuss this subject even on a contingency basis. If so, it will have been proved that the Hillsborough agreement is as useless as an instrument of enhanced security co-operation as it has proved for the improvement of relations between the two communities in Northern Ireland.

Most commentators assert, generally without giving reasons, that the agreement must be kept in being. But those who so assert are invited to answer the following question: what good, exactly, has the agreement done, in what areas, that is sufficient to outweigh the fact that it has been, and is still, steadfastly rejected by the great majority of the people of Northern Ireland — the area for whose benefit the agreement is supposedly intended?

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY

To bed with Bush

They said, again and again, there would be no honeymoon. And then, right on schedule, the honeymoon started. The American Press is in love with George Bush. It didn't take much. A little wine and cheese at the new presidential retreat in Kennebunkport, Maine (Bush stably bought the necessities himself at a local store), the occasional news conference with real, unrehearsed answers, and this self-styled, tough old broad swooned like a schoolgirl.

Thus we enter the third stage, in a year, in the Press's attitude towards Bush. The first was contempt. For the first half of the year he was regarded as an ineffectual wimp, sure to be knocked out by a primary rival or his Democratic opponent. By winning the nomination and then unveiling a brilliantly demagogic campaign against Michael Dukakis, Bush earned the Press's respect. But it was said that the viciousness of the campaign, and its cool manipulation of the media (candidate Bush virtually stopped holding news conferences for the last month) would guarantee a frosty reception when, as president-elect, he came courting.

Not at all. Bush now emerges as an aristocratic charmer and unpretentious nice guy, his campaign populist posturing and stridency forgiven and forgotten. One by one the opponents he defeated and/or denounced in the campaign — Pat Robertson, Bob Dole, Jesse Jackson, Dukakis — have dropped by for kiss-and-make-up sessions. Only Dole had the humanity to let the

phoniness of the occasion shine through.

What's the explanation? There are psychological factors. Bush has played a skilful game of "bad cop/good cop", his previous nastiness making his victims pathetically grateful for the sudden reversal into niceness. Then, too, the Press, for all its adversarial swagger, respects success and reverses power. Feeling guilty for having underestimated the candidate, the Press is over-compensating in its treatment of the president-elect. As the mantle of greatness descends, the attitude of "aw, phooey" turns into one of simple awe.

There are institutional factors, too. Bush and those close to him are now in a position to reward and punish journalists for at least four years. The temptation not to offend, at least at first, is strong. Moreover, a natural law of the keep changing. Having done Bush the deed and Bush the monster, the Press is eagerly susceptible to Bush the charmer.

It is especially hilarious to see Bush winning points for such "regular guy" activities as going to the cinema and ordering buttered popcorn. The Press and public appetite for this sort of thing goes in regular cycles. Richard Nixon raised fears of the "imperial presidency", and at one point tried to dress up the White House guards in ridiculous Buckingham Palace-style uniforms. So Gerald Ford got ecstatic reviews for inviting the Press into his suburban house, the morning after his election victory, to watch him make his

own toast. Jimmy Carter, campaigning in 1976, went over big by carrying his own suitcase on to aeroplanes. In fact the high point of Carter's presidency — less than one hour into it, unfortunately — probably came when he got out of his limousine and walked the route of the inaugural parade.

Four years later, the Press was heartily sick of Carter's southern poor boy routine. The Reaganes were given considerable credit for bringing "class", "elegance" and "dignity" back to the White House. It was frequently pointed out that the presidency combined the functions of king and prime minister. The Reaganes reinstituted white-tie dinners, and Reaganites leaked word that the Carter people had left the White House filthy and infested with cockroaches.

But by the end of the Reagan era, the Reagan's particular version of "class" had worn out its welcome. Mrs Reagan tempered her "Fancy Nancy" image by taking up the issue of drug rehabilitation, but didn't abandon her obsession with clothes or her vulgar socialite circle of friends. As for her husband, always dependent on rehearsed forms of human interaction, he became more distant and Hiroshima-like with age. After the Iran-Contra affair, he retreated almost completely into the "Mr President" shell.

So now the Bushes' genuinely aristocratic casualness ("U" behaviour, in the Nancy Mitford categorization), is contrasted favourably with the Reagan's ("non-U") glitzy formality. I

figure Bush has about two years to enjoy this before the cycle starts to turn again.

Anyway, what's wrong with a honeymoon? The Bushes' style is genuinely preferable to the Reaganes'. What's more, even someone who voted against him (i.e. me) suspects that the "gentler, kinder" Bush now on display is closer to the real person than was the campaign monster.

But the monster should not be so easily forgotten. Bush made a Faustian bargain. A basically decent man, he looked into his soul some time last summer, asked himself how badly he wanted to be president, and got the answer: very badly indeed. Having made his deal with the devil, he shouldn't be able to strug off with an, "Oh, that was just the campaign".

Bush would like nothing better than to play Dr Jekyll for about three and a half years and then swallow the potion and become Mr Hyde again for the next election. His success at getting away with this will determine the tone of America's politics at all levels. The notion that campaigning and governing are two utterly unrelated activities, if it becomes widely accepted, will undermine the quality of campaigns and governance. Campaigns will become dirtier and more irrelevant; government decisions will have less democratic input.

A president who wooed the electorate as Bush did deserves no honeymoon. He should be heckled from day one. The author is editor of *New Republic*.

DEC 21 ON THIS DAY 1848

The Times misjudged Louis Napoleon. Far from accepting the Republic, he destroyed it with Machiavellian cunning. Four years after his election as president he was declared Emperor Napoleon III.

[PRESIDENT LOUIS NAPOLEON]

The President of the French Republic will be this day proclaimed in the National Assembly. Immediately France, in one sense at least, will turn over a new leaf of her eventful story. The controversies, the doubts, and the animosities of a contest will give way to that deeper, though calmer excitement with which men watch the movements of any new power. The Prince will enter the palace from which his uncle departed to his last conflict with Europe, and afterwards to exile. He will choose his Ministers and indicate his policy. The great questions that divide the French nation will press, if not for permanent, at least for temporary decision.

Every act and word will be recorded in ten million memories for or against the object of a continual and overwhelming scrutiny, and France will soon know what manner of man she has summoned to the helm. LOUIS NAPOLEON will cease to be a name whispered with mysterious indistinctness. Even the calumnies and the gossip with which faction has assailed him as a desperate or a dangerous pretender will soon give place to more serious matters...

If any man ever asked himself where he stood, that question is now forced upon Prince LOUIS NAPOLEON.

NAPOLEON. The first call of duty and the first suggestion of prudence is, that he should take his stand on the very letter and spirit of the Constitution under which he is elected. Whatever the deficiencies and follies of that artificial fabric, its leading negatives are clear. It contains neither Emperor, Consul, Dictator, nor King. If the Prince is true to that charter, even if he die in its defence, he will at least hand down his name unpaired, and constitute a glorious link between the first Emperor and a family of whose destinies no one sees the end. It is for other reasons, and for another time to change the Republic into an Empire, if that will ever be. LOUIS NAPOLEON is not the experienced political chief called in to dictate between contending parties; he is not the victorious General charged to restore order and defend the soil; he has neither the capacity nor the call of a sovereign ruler. His success may have this one unenviable mission, but his own place is clearly defined; and if lower in the herald's roll of precedence, is not less honourable in the records of gratitude and fame. Against a vain-glorious nation ever dwelling on the trophies of the past, against an enthusiastic army, against unwise and possibly treacherous advisers, and against the long-cherished hopes of his life, it is his manifest duty to guard the position to which the Republic has placed him. He was not bound to LOUIS PHILIPPE, and might lawfully seek his destruction. He is bound to the Republic and cannot break that allegiance without disgrace. If he still claims the Imperial inheritance, it was his duty to remain an exile, and to hide his time. He made a better choice. He accepted the Republic, and is bound by that sacrament...



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

FACTS IN PROPORTION

Mrs Thatcher now has the Opposition parties transfixed in fear, as a mouse might be in the baleful stare of a cat. Labour is held in terror not by the unfathomable reality that, in its present condition, it is unelectable but by the growing horror of the sinister legend that Mrs Thatcher is invincible by ordinary politics. Many in the centre, as well as some Marxists, fear the same.

In desperation, therefore, they turn to the idea of pacts between Labour and the Democrats to oust Mrs Thatcher, with an agreement that, if successful, they would go on to place before the electorate a proposal for an electoral system based on some kind of proportional representation thereafter.

Mr John Evans, the Labour MP for St Helens North, one of Mr Kinnock's firm supporters, has said that the Conservatives will be in office indefinitely — unless Labour and the Democrats make a pact not to fight each other in an agreed number of marginal seats, and then move to some "fairer form of electoral procedures".

Inevitably, therefore, pacts and PR were put to Mr Neil Kinnock in his television interview with Mr Brian Walden at the weekend. Inevitably he rejected both. To have seemed to entertain even the vaguest possibility of a pact would have been to destroy Labour's prospects by a massive statement of no self-confidence. But there was more to Mr Kinnock's rejection than tactical necessity.

The reality is that a Labour-Alliance pact would by no means have ensured the loss of Mrs Thatcher's majority in 1987 and would be far from guaranteeing it at the next election. At least as many (if not more) Democrats would probably shift to the Tories to keep Labour out as would vote Labour to dish Mrs Thatcher.

In seats where Labour stood aside for the Democrats, a pact might work better — with Labour voters opting more solidly for the Democrats. Yet this could be offset by Tory-defecting Democrats who fear a Labour victory.

But the heart of the matter is not a pact but proportional representation itself. Mr Kinnock's reply on this point was sensible and even statesmanlike. He wisely did not attempt

to damn PR as though it had no rationality, and because he chose his words warily they have been interpreted in some places as indicating a wish to keep the door open to electoral "reform".

Acknowledging the apparent fairness of PR and its appeal, he admitted that if by changing the system "justice and reasonableness in government could be assured" nothing could be said against it. But he added that there was no guarantee or even likelihood that PR would bring a government favoured by the majority.

That is so, and implicit in his words was the truth that although PR is obviously fairer to political parties as such, it by no means follows that it is fairer to the people as a whole.

On major issues to which a clear electoral "yes" or "no" should be given, PR would not necessarily mean that the majority's wishes will prevail. Indeed, by putting minority parties in the position of power-brokers, it could have the opposite effect, with third-party voters having no clear knowledge of which major party their vote would put in power, or on what terms.

If, however, two parties went to the polls in declared coalition, it would hardly add to the electorate's real voting power. The possible evolution of a multiplicity of parties actually removes choice from the voters and hands it to bargaining politicians, carrying the risk of weak and unstable government.

First-past-the-post, like any other system, has its snags. But it generates responsible and responsive governments that are stable. If voters do not like the result, within four to five years they can turn it out.

British politics at the moment are painfully distorted but not by the electoral system. The culprit is Labour itself which so persistently resists efforts to make it fit for power.

Mr Kinnock is wise to see that the worst possible reason for changing the system would be desperate expediency. That would almost certainly rebound on Labour's head. If the Labour advocates of a pact and PR really want power they should concentrate on helping to get their party in a condition that in the voters' eyes make it worthy of office.

COALITION AT LAST

After nearly two months of negotiations, Israel's two main political power blocs are to form another national coalition. The proposed new Government ought to have several advantages over the so-called Government of national unity which held power for four years before last month's indecisive poll.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, will hold that post throughout without having to take turns with the Labour leader, Mr Shimon Peres. With continuity should come greater consistency.

The replacement of the moderate Mr Peres as Foreign Minister by Mr Shamir's right-wing partner Mr Moshe Arens, must dishearten those hoping for positive moves in the international peace process. But the voice of Israel should at least sound more coherent when it speaks to the outside world.

Mr Shamir can call most of the shots. His Likud Party still has the option of forming a more narrowly-based coalition with smaller groups if Mr Peres threatens to bring down the Government on a point of principle.

Even Mr Peres is opposed to negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and to forming a Palestinian state on the West Bank. In the changed situation created by Mr Yasser Arafat's recent initiative, the Labour-Likud alliance could thus find itself united.

Labour retains the defence ministry — one of the three most important posts in modern Israel. But the Army has the unenviable job of coping with the Arab *intifada* in the occupied territories. This has placed the Minister of Defence in a permanently exposed position. It is a post which Mr Shamir is no doubt content to leave to a political opponent, especially as Mr Rabin is no soft-liner.

Mr Peres holds the purse strings. To Israel's

Ministry of Finance is the most powerful single post within the Cabinet. But, politically, it is a bed of nails.

The state of Israel's economy is critical, with half the budget going to service the national debt and Koor Industries, the largest industrial company in the region, on the brink of collapse. The plight of the large overmanned, state-run industries is matched only by that of the debt-ridden agricultural collectives.

Meanwhile the country's public facilities are in a mess, with long doctors' queues and hospital waiting lists reflecting a shortage of cash and poor management. His party will be expecting Mr Peres to pump money into these Labour institutions — especially as it has also been awarded the chairmanship of the parliamentary finance committee.

Mr Peres has also to hold the ring in the argument over Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. Officially the new coalition has agreed on a compromise to build up to eight of these (as opposed to the 40 which Likud wanted). But the Government will need money to build any.

Mr Peres made the economy one of his chief priorities when he was Prime Minister for the first two years of the last Government. He was successful at bringing inflation down from astronomical levels. The Labour leader was reluctant to place himself at the economic helm once more — but all Israel requires him to succeed.

Both parties can congratulate themselves on having avoided making concessions to the religious or right-wing parties which at first seemed to hold the balance between them. After some shameless wheeler-dealing in Jerusalem, they have shared out a package. They still have to show the electorate that the result was worth waiting for.

TOP DOGS IN DEFENCE

In the High Court in London yesterday, General Electric Company won an important legal point and moved one step nearer the creation of a pan-European defence electronics empire. In an unusual alliance, GEC and Siemens of West Germany are joining forces to bid £1.7 billion for Plessey. The legal challenge by Plessey centred on whether such a joint bid is uncompetitive.

Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome prohibits any industrial agreement likely to distort free competition. The court rightly declared that this was for the Commission to decide.

The joint takeover bid is most unwelcome in to Plessey and it will be fought and probably decided upon the relative skills of each company's advocates. The public argument is likely to revolve not so much about whether the concept of such a Euro-corporation is desirable or not, but on who would be calling the shots.

It is probable that appeals to nationalism will be made in much the same way as they were when Nestlé of Switzerland bid for Rowntree of York. The Commission, it is to be hoped, will take a wider view.

There is no doubt that in the atmosphere of "1992" and the breaking down of internal barriers between Common Market member states, there will be other similar merger attempts. A growing consensus has emerged among business leaders that national companies within the relatively small economies of Western Europe are at a disadvantage when competing on the world stage.

The next stage in that train of thought has to be mergers, collaborations, joint ventures and other devices where the strengths of more than one company can be harnessed to compete with the big corporations of Japan and the United States. Inevitably, in most cases, that will lead to a reduction of competition.

If Plessey, for example, is half-owned by

GEC will it be allowed to compete in the same way with Marconi, a wholly-owned GEC subsidiary, as it does now? Whatever GEC may say, the answer must be, no. It may be that loss of domestic competition is a fair price to pay for international competitiveness. That is for the European Commission to decide.

The case for Euro-corporations is so far unproven. There are two strikingly successful Anglo-Dutch companies, Shell and Unilever, which have operated for decades. In each case, the operations are owned jointly by two distinct holding companies each with their own shareholders. They raise capital, when needed, from anywhere in the world.

On the other hand, the attempt to create a similar union between Dunlop of Britain and Pirelli of Italy nearly 20 years ago fell apart because the divisions between the managements left the union incapable of competing in the world tyre and rubber markets. Each side appeared to want to call the shots. The union was dissolved after massive losses which drove Dunlop into the hands of an industrial conglomerate and the British tyre industry into the hands of the Japanese.

In the true spirit of Europe, the nationality of the dominant partner ought to be irrelevant: what is important is the success which can be shared. Britain's largest can-maker, Metal Box, is happily going into a merger which will give control of its entire packaging operation to a French packaging company. The deal has many hurdles to overcome, not least convincing the Commission that it is not uncompetitive, but at least the parties to it are willing.

If the Plessey bid fails it is likely to be because of Ministry of Defence concern that British influence in the defence electronics industry will be eroded. But if the Community is to do the best for all its members, Britain has to recognize that its companies cannot be top dog in all Euro-corporations.

Putting eggs in other baskets

From the Superintendent of the South London Mission
Sir, The Minister of Agriculture has announced the destruction of 400 million eggs, following the salmonella scare (report, December 20). If eggs can be eaten safely, why aren't they treated like the EEC butter and beef mountains and given away to the poor?

As a centre for the distribution of free beef and butter we have hundreds of people on benefit queuing at the doors of the South London Mission each month for free food. It is eagerly received. Or perhaps it is not safe to eat? If so why are unsold eggs being sent to Armenia (report, December 14)?

Yours sincerely,
ROY C. ALLISON,
Superintendent Minister,
South London Mission,
The Central Hall,
Barnes Road, SE1,
December 19.

From Mrs Gillian Egan
Sir, So, now we are to "donate" one million eggs to Armenia. Will they, too, carry cooking guidelines in line with those the Department of Health has issued here? Consumers of the eggs will doubtless include the elderly, the sick, pregnant women and babies. There is already concern that the earthquake and its aftermath will give rise to epidemics; surely survivors are not at their healthiest or most resistant to disease at this time.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN EGAN
(London Liaison Officer,
The Vegetarian Society),
53 Marlow Road,
Kensington, W8,
December 14.

From Dr Irwin Joffe
Sir, It is surprising that the egg manufacturers are now being rewarded by the Government (report, December 20) for loss of profits occasioned by their own cavalier attitude to the nation's health.

Why have there been no calls for the resignation of the Minister of Agriculture? Surely it is he who is responsible for the total lack of action on the salmonella threat, despite the appreciable length of time he has known of it; yet only now, when profits from egg sales are threatened, has he seen fit to address the nation on the subject.

Yours faithfully,
I. JOFFE,
24 Holmwood Gardens,
Finchley, N3.

From Mrs Gentian Walls
Sir, The reason I am eating fewer eggs is because I just don't enjoy them well done. What pleasure is there in attacking a hard-fried egg? And my favourite salad dressing requires two raw eggs — I used to make it for all my family and friends.

I can't see how blaming Mrs Currie is going to achieve anything. Until the egg industry can give categorical assurance that raw eggs may be consumed with equanimity, their problems will remain.

Yours faithfully,
GENTIAN WALLS,
Springfield House,
Dunsfold, Surrey,
December 16.

From Sir Fred Hardman
Sir, As a 74-year-old I am grateful to Edwina Currie for probably saving my life — but my taxes will be used to compensate egg producers for putting me at risk!

Yours in complete lack of comprehension,
FRED HARDMAN,
The Old Bakehouse,
Inverbridge,
Telford, Shropshire,
December 17.

House prices and RPI

From Mr J. W. Talbot
Sir, The suggestion made by Dr Jonathan Ramsay (December 5) that house prices be included in the RPI as an alternative to mortgage interest deserves further consideration.

The Chancellor's assertion that fluctuations in mortgage rates bear no resemblance to the underlying inflation trend is convincing. The increase in house prices, on the other hand, must have a significant bearing on wage demands, since housing is an essential item in living costs. It therefore seems unreasonable to compare wage demands with an RPI which takes no account of this factor.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. TALBOT,
Spinneybrook, 15 Chancel Close,
Brundall,
Norwich, Norfolk,
December 5.

Tagging offenders

From the General Secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation

Sir, You are right (leading article, November 28) in acknowledging that probation officers exercise discipline and control as integral parts of their work, along with personal concern and the use of social work methods. One reason why probation officers do not share the current fascination with electronic tagging is that it offers nothing that cannot be done much better through personal contact.

Another is a profound distaste for extending the idea of house arrest, so far associated only with repressive regimes or conditions of emergency, into something for everyday use with the general run of minor criminals. It is bad enough to have to send anyone to prison. Is it necessarily better to make his home a prison —

Inadequacies in forensic medicine

From Dr Neville Davis
Sir, The accelerating increase in violent crime in England and Wales reported in the latest Home Office Statistical Bulletin (December 15) prompts me to draw attention again to the widespread inadequacies of clinical forensic medical input to both the investigations which follow these offences and to the courts in subsequent trials.

There can now be no doubt that this work is a specialty requiring the acquisition of a considerable body of knowledge, skills and experience. Cleveland drew attention to this in a most dramatic way. Part of the problem is that apart from in the major cities there is insufficient call upon the services of doctors conducting forensic examinations on living subjects to justify the time and effort required to achieve that standard of efficiency demanded by postgraduate qualifications such as the clinical category of the Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence.

In the cities the volume of work undertaken for police forces has increased enormously, not only because of the actual increase in violent crime but also on account of the medical requirements imposed on constables by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Attempts are being made to improve the situation. The Association of Police Surgeons, always striving to raise standards, is establishing a database to embody the considerable experi-

ence of its members. The Metropolitan Police have had in-house training for their doctors for some time; other constabularies have either followed suit or have expressed interest and it is likely that courses will be organised nationally for doctors involved in police work in the hope of achieving at least an acceptable and consistent level of efficiency.

The other side of the coin has received less attention; lawyers whose clients have been charged with violent offences are often at a loss to know where to seek reliable clinical forensic advice to enable them to challenge allegations which may well be based on medical opinion of dubious value, neither is it easy for the courts to ascribe weight to differing medical opinions in matters which may be highly technical.

We can no longer afford to continue in this haphazard manner. A proper academic base must be established to set and supervise standards in this discipline. Other specialties have graded qualifications and I firmly believe that clinical forensic medicine must be brought into line so that there will be obvious bench-marks whereby true professionalism may be established and credibility credibly assessed to the advantage of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE DAVIS
(President, Section of Clinical Forensic Medicine),
The Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole Street, W1.

Bias in the arts

From Mr William Douglas-Home
Sir, Lord Goodman's contention (December 10) that appointments in the arts are now restricted to people holding right-wing views was news to me.

Should it be true, however, though I would not like a closed shop, I am bound to say it would not break my heart to see a little right-wing leavening to balance what sometimes appears to be a touch of left-wing bias in the theatre. This manifests itself to me, of course, most notably through certain drama critics, who have plagued me down the years.

A glance at my press-cutting book informs me that Ken Tynan sometimes used to open his reviews of my plays with the phrase "The Honourable William tells us in Act One".

Another critic, writing of a play of mine about Rolls-Royce, wrote: He has apparently been drawn to the

story as a surviving relic of the old British class system, and his treatment of the two partners is designed to show the democratic operation of the gentlemen's club.

A third, to my amazement (and amusement!) on my play *The Dame of Sark*, wrote:

Mr William Douglas-Home, with his upper-class background, concentrates on the relationship between the Dame of Sark and the German Commander in the Channel Islands, Colonel Count von Schmettau, entirely at the expense of the relationship between the Dame and her maid.

These three examples, out of many, of a left-wing bias in the theatre, lead me to the conclusion that a touch of right-wing common sense and fairness, as opposed to non-artistic prejudice in certain quarters might be what the theatre is looking for.

I am, Sir, yours etc.,
WILLIAM DOUGLAS-HOME,
Derry House,
Kilnston, Hampshire.

Arms realities

From Dr Julian Lewis
Sir, Mr John Biffen has just announced that Britain should consider abandoning all nuclear weapons in response to the advent of Gorbachev (report, December 16). A non-nuclear defence should not, he apparently feels, be the preserve of the far left.

He is right to think that it is at the present: since October, 1985, my consultancy — Policy Research Associates — has commissioned no fewer than seven Gallup polls at regular intervals asking: "Do you think Britain should or should not continue to possess nuclear weapons as long as the Soviet Union has them?" Time and again some 67 per cent of those polled have answered "should", and only

some 26 per cent have replied "should not".

Had Britain adopted a non-nuclear stance during the intermediate nuclear forces debate it is highly unlikely that Gorbachev rather than the hard-line Romanov would have won the Soviet leadership. No one can foretell how long he will hold on to it, yet our decisions about nuclear weapons now must see us through for the next 30 years.

In the meantime all the poll evidence suggests that if Mr Biffen wants the Conservatives to lose the next general election, he is going the right way about it by such ill-considered remarks.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN LEWIS,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1.

Child survivors

From Mr Keith Rolles and Professor Sir Roy Calne, FRS
Sir, We write with reference to the caption on your picture and article on December 15. The young man shown with Michael Crawford is claimed to be "Britain's youngest liver-transplant patient".

Liver transplantation in children has been performed on a regular basis in the United Kingdom since late 1983. Most of these cases have been performed at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, in conjunction with the Liver Unit at King's College Hospital, London.

The youngest patient in this programme underwent liver transplantation at seven months of age and is well and thriving more than one year later. In addition, our records show a further 17 children currently alive who underwent liver transplantation before their fourth birthday.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH ROLLES,
R. Y. CALNE,
University of Cambridge Clinical School,
Department of Surgery,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Hills Road,
Cambridge,
December 15.

Traffic troubles

From Sir James Richards
Sir, We have an excellent set of rules for controlling kerb-side parking — yellow lines, double yellow lines, markings on the kerb and so on — but the trouble is that they are simply not enforced. No action seems to be taken to put a stop to long-term parking. I see the same vehicles parked on yellow lines for hours at a time.

Since the Metropolitan Police have more urgent tasks than dealing with wrongly-parked vehicles there is not a case for creating a separate corps of traffic police, concerned only with traffic movement and the control of parking and equipped with powers of arrest and enforcement not possessed by traffic wardens?

Is there not also a case for forbidding central-area shops to take deliveries of stock between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.? It would provoke protests about working unsocial hours, but these could be organized on a shift system. Banning such deliveries in the daytime has made a notable contribution to keeping traffic moving in cities abroad and we could well follow their example.

Yours etc.,
J. M. RICHARDS,
29 Fawcett Street, SW10.

about being able to judge the quality of a civilisation from the way it treats its convicted offenders would be visibly illustrated if tagging were to get a hold. Its strongest advocates, the manufacturers, make no secret of the fact that they see offenders as only the first group suitable for treatment. It could be used for the elderly, children, and other "at risk" groups.

There is clearly a vision of an Orwellian world far removed from Mr Hurd's concept of "active citizenship", where it is not only probation officers who will be "pushed to the sidelines of their business", as you put it with such apparent sang-froid.

Yours sincerely,
BILL WESTON, General Secretary,
Association of Chief Officers of Probation,
20-30 Lawfield Lane,
Walsfield, West Yorkshire,
December 9.

City schools in troubled waters

From Mr Lawrence Norcross
Sir, The General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers is right to draw attention (December 14) to the wider implications of the affair at Highbury Quadrant school.

The last straw for many inner London heads who took early retirement during the past five years or so was the refusal of their employer to take effective action against a militant minority of staffroom disrupters.

The reluctance of most of these heads to state publicly their reasons for retirement compounded the problem by confirming the disrupters' belief in their invulnerability. On several occasions during my own tenure of headship, my concerns about the irresponsible conduct of a handful of teachers were not even acknowledged, let alone supported.

The present leader of Ilea is more pragmatic, less dogmatic, than his predecessor, and therefore, in the current climate, more likely to support his officers and head teachers. But teacher militancy in inner London has deep and poisonous roots, as Mr Hart has indicated.

The new education authorities for inner London would do well to heed his warning. Failure to do so will leave responsible and concerned parents with no satisfactory alternative to voting to apply for grant-maintained status for their children's schools.

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE NORCROSS,
3 St Nicholas Mansions,
6-8 Trinity Crescent, SW17,
December 14.

Dons' pay

From Lord Beloff
Sir, The decision by the Association of University Teachers to embark upon the boycott of examinations (report, December 14) is the sad culmination of a process which many former members feared would begin when we resigned from the AUT when it sought affiliation to the TUC in 1976.

"Industrial action", a weapon of last resort for employees, is wholly inappropriate to members of a profession, whatever the reasons given. (And with some of the AUT case, particularly that relating to the "brain drain", I have much sympathy.)

At the time of the schism it was suggested that those unwilling to remain in the AUT should form a new association which (like the very successful Professional Association of Teachers) would abjure any form of strike.

I hope that the majority of AUT members who abstained from the recent ballot and those who voted against the proposed measure will now resign from the AUT and that there will be found among them enough young and determined leaders to set up a new professional body which my generation, alas, failed to do.

Yours truly,
BELOFF,
House of Lords.

Student loans

From Mr S. J. West-Oram
Sir, The concern that Dr Patterson (December 10) expresses for the financial welfare of his student is matched neither by his appreciation of the remedy nor by his faith in the ultimate career possibilities for a student of mechanical engineering.

The 18-year-old adult student, cast adrift financially by his father, should turn to that next most ready provider of funds, his bank. There is no indignity in taking a loan — we have a relaxed attitude to borrowing money for trivial intangibles such as holidays and the banks are happy to provide the cash. How much more worth while it is to borrow money to fund a degree in mechanical engineering.

Dr Patterson's student should finance the rest of his course with a bank loan, thinking of it as an investment in himself. As a qualified professional engineer he will find that the return on his investment will vastly exceed any interest made by the bank.

Yours sincerely,
S. J. WEST-ORAM,
Durno House,
Pitcairne, Aberdeen.

Hands off!

From Sir Thomas Padmore
Sir, The surmise of British Rail to the silly fad for digital clocks has another substantial disadvantage for the railway traveller, beyond the very real one mentioned by Lord Moyne (December 13).

One very often consults a railway clock not so much to see the present time as to see how much time is left before one's train is due.

"Proper" clocks show this at a glance. The less informative digital clock discloses it only at the cost of an operation in mental arithmetic — two operations if the interval goes past the hour.

If experience in shops is any guide, there are nowadays very many people who cannot do this sort of thing without the aid of a calculator.

Yours faithfully,
T. PADMORE,
39 Cholmeley Crescent,
Highgate, N6.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Gritty integrity

Tim Hunkin did not clean up his act for the final programme of his splendid series which explained the workings of machinery: *The Secret Life of the Television Set* (Channel 4). It would have been an untypical showbiz acknowledgement of the vehicle of his increasing celebrity, if he had removed his customary working man's grime from his fingernails to grasp the inner secrets of the box.

Not that there was no gesture towards the incestuous choice of subject: it began with the old visual cliché, a picture of Hunkin which turned out to be on a television set on camera. It ended, though, with more unusual style — setting fire to a huge pile of sets that were switched on. It was remarkable that some pictures, like cooking heretics stubbornly refusing to meet their makers, went on giving us their messages through the burgeoning flames, thus giving encouragement to any television moguls who might be thinking of bidding for the rights to the Apocalypse.

Mountains of Gold (ITV) showed us something going up in smoke which will bring that apocalypse nearer — the Brazilian Amazon rain forest. Adrian Cowell's poignant film juxtaposed two risky methods of getting rich quick: prospecting for gold and industrial mining on a vast scale.

Even Hunkin might have had difficulty in giving us a homely feel for one of the giant machines that eat up the forest with the contemporary ease of a gourmand swallowing a sliver of *cuisine minceur*. The worst ecological damage was being done, however, by the more primitive pig-iron factories.

The case for being allowed to destroy the forest, not to say the world, was put by a local politician who skillfully used a powerful tool — humorous ridicule. The damage caused by the mass of gold prospectors swarming in the mud was less in worldwide terms, the rewards elementarily obvious for the lucky few. But failure and hunger were written on most of their faces, one of which was blown off when a soldier, trying to keep order, fired above all but his head.

Andrew Hislop

The music comes first in a stage recreation

of the classic *Metropolis*, Peter Lewis writes

Songs in a silent world

The silent science fiction movie *Metropolis*, made by Fritz Lang in 1927, does not at first sight cry out to be made into a stage musical. It is a classic honoured more in the books than in the showing, chiefly admired for the cunning of its effects, the colossus of a future skyscraping city and its netherworld of machinery, teeming with serfs who maintain and service luxurious surroundings for the few.

There are certain problems of transference. How to compete, for example, with a cast of 37,000 (1,000 of them with shaven heads) which could be picked up cheap among the post-war German unemployed? But *Metropolis* is even now being constructed in secrecy in the heart of London, on the stage of the Piccadilly Theatre. The £2 million musical of that title opens there on March 1.

The designer, Ralph Koltai, has been at work on its visual problems for 18 months. He decided at the outset not to copy Lang's vision. "You have to acknowledge the movie, but at the same time it is outdated in many respects," he says.

"Take the machine room: what are they actually doing in physical terms? It looks silly today to have them tearing themselves apart, now that we have high technology and buttons to press without physical effort."

An unusual feature of the show are the lifts that connect the

workers' Underworld with the upper world of the master of *Metropolis*, whose name is now John Freeman. There are three working lifts, one on stage and two on the auditorium side of the proscenium. At one point they considered excavating beneath the stage to accommodate the Underworld, but wiser counsels prevailed when it was realized that the Piccadilly Line passes beneath the theatre.

The story centres on the creation of a robot woman in the exact image of the heroine, Maria. This was achieved in the film with rings of light weaving round the robot figure in its perspex capsule. Nobody is revealing how this will be done on stage, except to say that this transformation scene will be the climax of Act One.

A good deal of coyness can be detected all round, of the wait-til-you-see-it variety. "But the audience won't come out humming the effects," says Dusty Hughes, the show's writer and lyricist. "Basically a musical has to express strong feelings that are easily communicable to an audience or it doesn't work."

"This is a love story in which a boy, Freeman's son, falls in love with a girl, Maria. But he can't tell the difference between her and the robot Maria, which his father commissions to be made in order to discredit her, both with the boy and with the workers."

"There are echoes of Frankenstein, a man-made monster which goes out of control, but here it is in the body of a beautiful woman."



The robot creates mayhem and starts a revolt in which the workers attack the machinery."

Both roles, of course, are played by the same actress, Judy Kuhn, who starred in the Broadway production of *Chess*. "Until I saw her, I

didn't think one person would have the stamina to do both parts," says the producer, Michael White, who has such shows as *A Chorus Line* and *On Your Toes* to his name.

With a cast of 40, he is spending £2 million on the production.

The other principals are Graham Bickley, who is currently in *Les Misérables*, as the son, and the genial Brian Blessed, who will play the sinister Freeman, master of *Metropolis*. He was in the original cast of *Cats* and is an accomplished singer.

The music is by the show's originator, Joe Brooks, and is described as "strongly melodic", not electronic at all. He and Dusty Hughes, whose first musical this is, have worked together on the lyrics. "He does the love songs, I do the witty ones."

There is dialogue, too. "It's halfway between a book show and an opera."

The director is Jérôme Savary, now head of the Théâtre National Populaire. He has a great reputation in France for theatrical extravaganzas, from the *Grand Magic Circus* to his history of the world *From Moses to Mao*, his only show so far seen in this country.

Hitler admired *Metropolis*, including no doubt its sentimental, brotherhood-of-man ending, in which an unlikely



reconciliation takes place between the representatives of management and labour in front of ranks of disciplined workers. There will be no whimsy of that sort in the stage version. The baddies get their deserts and they will go up in smoke.

Hughes admits he has had a struggle with a story that ventures pretty far from the usual territory for musicals, which is a new field for him anyway. "The story is no sillier than the plot of some famous operas," he says.

"We've simplified it and managed to tease some humour out of the situation. There's some iron in it as well. The theatre has its own strict laws which you ignore at your peril. A film is a film, but a musical is a musical."

DANCE

Witty suite

Choros
Sadler's Wells

David Bintley's *Choros*, revived at Sadler's Wells this week, is a suite of dances which pretends to imitate the varied styles of Greek drama as a pretext for including many contrasted elements. Seen again five years after its creation, it can be understood as a necessary forerunner of Bintley's subsequent pure-dance ballets.

Choros is not so polished a work as the best of those later products, but it does have much witty invention, cheeky humour and sometimes a touch of mystery, too. Bintley is reported as having made some changes, of detail rather than substance.

The ballet's weakness is the element about which we felt some reservations from the first. Aubrey Meyer's raucous score. I had hoped that time might have made its rowdy vitality seem more attractive, but it still shows only one real virtue, a theatrical vividness, like a modern hooligan version of such 19th-century musical hacks as Drigo.

However, Terry Bartlett's setting of tall white climbing frames retains its elegance (and its punning suggestion that gymnasium might have meant the same to the ancient Greeks as it does today). The simplified women's costumes are a great improvement. Six of the nine dancers on whom Bintley created the ballet in 1983 retain their former roles and dance them excellently. The newcomers are Julie Francis Allen as the lithe, sly young participant in the satyr episode, Nicholas Millington as Marion Tait's sympathetic partner in the main duets, and Karen Donovan as the speedy soloist who is so cavalierly treated by her self-admiring trio of partners.

The revival is given with John Auld's lively production of *Petrushka* and the first London performances of Lynn Seymour's *Bastet*. Presumably someone felt obliged to let the Sadler's Wells audience learn for themselves how justified the condemnation of its Birmingham premiere had been.

John Percival

Virtuosity and clowning in tandem

Exposé

Donmar Warehouse

The last of three Sunday nights with *Exposé* brought the focus on to the group's joint director Richard Barrett, who, like others of the more intense, more intellectually alert and more post-Ferneyhough composers of the 1950s generation, is probably better known abroad than in Britain. Composers cannot really count themselves to be post-Ferneyhough unless their works are being performed in Darmstadt, Strasbourg and Amsterdam before London.

The two linked pieces we heard, nothing elsewhere for solo viola

and *EARTH* for trombone and percussion, are apparently extreme and concluding points in a sequence of instrumental *Fictions*. After four opening cycles of mounting fury, *nothing elsewhere* is stopped in its tracks to become a five-minute looping of narrow-register glissandos.

EARTH, lasting about 12 minutes, is different in almost every possible way: strikingly discontinuous, rude and even primitive in its sounds, full of noise, colour and pulsation, though still, just, within a style of high sophistication. Perhaps this is an important element in Barrett's composing, the ability to cross the boundary between the seemingly

impassioned, dedicated and finely controlled virtuosity of Ferneyhough's solo pieces and the instrumental clowning of Berio or Kagel. The more overtly dramatic events in this performance — the entry of the trombonist during the opening bass drum roll, and later his emphatic tossing aside of used mutes and sheets of music — were additions to the score, but seemed entirely in keeping with the spirit of the piece. Barrie Webb and Elizabeth Davis were the excellently intrepid musicians; Bridget Carey had fastened herself with the same urgency to the tasks of *nothing elsewhere*.

Even more puzzling than these pieces was Barrett's three-minute

CONCERTS

version of Stockhausen's *Plus-Minus*, perhaps a deliberate damp squib. But there was an outstanding performance of Zimmermann's *Intercomunicazione* from Alan Brett and James Clapperton. The latter pulls his face into grimaces of violence and disgust before attacking the keyboard, but then the resultant sound, if loud and sharp in attack, contradicts expectation in its control and beauty, providing here an apt opposition to Brett's unflinching, lonely continuity.

Paul Griffiths

Direct communications

BBC PO/Penderecki
Studio 7, Manchester

The amount of new and unfamiliar music that the BBC Philharmonic have presented over the last few months is impressive. It augurs well for their future under Trevor Green's guidance. Perhaps even more impressive is their apparently effortless control of often intractable material.

But, in the case of their Penderecki concert, with the composer conducting, that task was surely less difficult than it may have seemed. Penderecki's position among contemporary composers is not easily assessed. How far is

he an innovator, and how far just a skilled follower of the bandwagon? What can be said is that he is a master of the art of creating effects with the minimum of effort. That is by no means a two-edged comment. Where many of his contemporaries fill their scores with complex detail that is virtually inaudible and out of proportion to the affect achieved, Penderecki has generally worked in broad colours that communicate directly and easily.

They can sometimes be a little disappointing, as in his Christmas Symphony of 1980. This is a strangely Brucknerian affair that avoids his more characteristic style in clusters, preferring rel-

atively simple harmonies and clear lines, that often leave you regretting that the counterpoint is not stronger. Its grand design also makes you regret that he seems unable to vary his pace and create music that sounds fast.

Karine Georgian countered that problem in playing his second Cello Concerto of 1982. The sheer energy she displayed, in a work that certainly does not play itself, generated a degree of ebb and flow to which the orchestra responded magnificently. Yet Penderecki is surely at his best on a smaller time-scale. His brief and simple *Als Jacob Erwachte*, of 1974, made its mark instantly.

David Fallows

THEATRE

Not quite there

Stickty Fingers
King's Head

"Who needs lovers, who needs friends. When you've got a Mercedes-Benz?" So begins one racy number in this mixed-up musical by Michael Ellis, a composer and lyricist who prefers making fun of the rich and stylish world of advertising to holding up for our admiration the socially caring inhabitants of an inner-city squat. "There's a world outside," says one of his social workers, "there's people in need." No prize offered for guessing which deadly sin this rhymes with.

The opportunity to hear newly written jazz in a musical comes rarely enough, and Ellis's songs are thrillingly sung here by the zesty young Amanda Symonds, black-skinned, blue-eyed, who brings a grainy attack to the songs of passion and a heart-catching, smoky melancholy to a song called "Look Back In Anger".

The other five members of the cast are not required to haul up equivalent hunks of anguish. They perform in comic mode: Winston Crooke as some sort of Caribbean C&W cowboy, Louise Jameson a student Dietrich. The most consistently amusing is Nicholas Le Prevost as the boss of Starky and Starky, first seen placing art objects on plinths with the prissy reverence that some writers and directors (in this case Yvonne Brewster) think apt for agency chiefs.

Now for the bad news. Ellis has an embarrassingly poor notion of how to put together a scene and where to place a number that will build character or develop his theme; as for the social issues (ad agency v. squatters' rights) the plot line is famous, with Alan Cooke playing an unbelievable script-writer. But, considered as a tester of a future show — cut, extended, clarified, dramatized — the work has distinct possibilities.

Jeremy Kingston

Le Retour au désert
Renaud-Barrault, Paris

Le Retour au désert is sent before its time on to the stage of Paris's Renaud-Barrault theatre, scarce half made up. Written by one of France's most talked-about playwrights, Bernard-Marie Koltès, this black comedy has the makings of a contemporary masterpiece, yet in substance it falls short of being one. An impressive cast, headed by Jacqueline Maillan and Michel Piccoli, is directed by Patrice Chéreau.

The lights dimly go up on an *haute architecture* set, whose intricate minimalism clearly identifies it as the work of Richard Peduzzi, Chéreau's scenic accomplice for more than 20 years. As the action changes, the scenery deconstructs itself, smooth walls break into a staircase, or silently sprout a three-metre-high garden wall.

We are in provincial France in the early Sixties. Mathilde Serpenoise, a middle-aged battle-axe, banished 15 years earlier for below-the-belt black sheep activities, returns from war-torn Algeria to the bourgeois family fold, determined to repossess her inheritance, with son and daughter Edouard and Fatima in tow.

Please please please
Almeida

Translated back into "real life", neither the people nor the events in the Complicité show would be worth looking at. Mum and Dad, bored to death with each other, lie reading in bed. Young Malcolm rehearses the great domestic walk-out he is never going to make. Brother Ken brings his girl-friend round for a ceremonial opening of presents that nobody wants; and they wind up as a glum snowbound group, while a laggy serenades them on the musical saw.

This kind of inert family life is

Mathilde's ever-loathing brother Adrien smartly whips the welcome mat from under her feet. In her absence, Adrien has become a barefoot, city-suited recluse, running the family affairs and keeping the innocence of his son Mathieu intact, within the family property's encircling high wall. While Adrien and Mathilde demolish one another, their children play. Edouard takes the virginal Mathieu to the local brothel. Fatima meets the ghost of Adrien's first wife. Wife number two, sister to number one, is an alcoholic. Two salt-of-the-earth arabic servants, a café owner, a militant black parachutist, a lawyer and a couple of local dignitaries complete Koltès's hackneyed icons of social comment.

It is a confused, dramatic purgative, flavoured with sharp humour, that flushes out all the bile of contemporary society within the confines of a family feud. Once cleansed, however, the characters have trouble in bringing the play to a conclusion.

Edouard opts out by reasoning that if he jumps into the air, the earth will move away without him... so he is last seen shooting out over the auditorium. Armed with his new found manhood, Mathieu makes for the Algerian front line. Fatima gives birth to

outside the range of spoken drama; but Amabel Arden's production (now entering its third year) proves it to be natural material for this company's vocabulary of body-language, which reflects the family's stunted, habit-ridden speech while releasing their unspoken fantasies and hostilities on a Wagnerian comic scale; showing them both as futile rebels and as automata possessed by ingrained routines.

Taking the old scene of the teenager threatening to leave home, Arden lets Marcelle Magni



Brother and sister in conflict: Michel Piccoli and Jacqueline Maillan

black twins. Only Mathilde and Adrien hang around arguing until the unresolved end.

One of France's best loved "boulevard" actresses, Maillan enthusiastically flexes hitherto unused dramatic muscles. Her inimitable way with acerbic one-liners, and Piccoli's demented, knock-

about portrayal of Adrien, coupled with the intriguing design and direction, succeed in giving Koltès's embryonic cluster of good ideas a sense of dramatic maturity they do not altogether deserve.

Diane Hill

Household monsters

In this role, Linda Kerr Scott, face clenched tight under a mass of curlers, raises a domestic drudge to the energy level of a whirling dervish. She is outmatched only by Simon McBurney's Ken, bestriding the stage like a ravenous ogre wielding an invisible phallic club, when confiding the pleasures of conjugal life to his little brother.

Irving Wardle

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Making a meal of manners?

Nowhere are children's manners — or lack of them — more talked about than at the table. Dinah Hall discovers why

Eblows off the table! Don't speak with your mouth full! No, you can't get down — wait until everybody has finished. The language of the dining table probably still rings in your ears from childhood. And yet here we are, the liberated souls of the Sixties and Seventies, who were so determined to do everything differently, demanding exactly the same standards of our children.

It is certainly easier if everyone's standards are the same. The trouble starts when two families with very different views on the upbringing of children come together, as on Christmas Day. The liberal mother ignores or smiles fondly on Bruno as he performs a war dance around the table, brandishing a turkey leg while the polite mother's face muscles tauten. "My goodness, what a lively child," she manages between gritted teeth.

And when little Camilla at the end of the meal says: "Please may I get down and thank you for a lovely lunch," it is her turn to relax while the liberal mother looks fit to throw up.

Brothers and sisters who were brought up in exactly the same way will often bring their own children up in widely diverging ways, depending on whether they conform to or react against their own parents' values.

"I suppose because I've married a man who is quite conservative and was brought up with even stricter table manners than we had in our house, we demand a higher standard of behaviour from our children than my brother does of his. But quite honestly, I find the manners of his children ruin Christmas lunch for everyone," one woman complains.

"He and his wife are very keen on 'creative expression' for their children, which means that everyone else has to endure their shouting at each other across the table and pushing away the food that they don't want. And then between courses they get down and run around or play with their toys."

"My children have been trained to sit still until the end of a meal, so of course they start to feel hard done by. I don't know which is worse — the idea that they will copy their cousins' behaviour or the fact that what I consider in my children to be only reasonable degrees of politeness and consideration for others — please and thank you, and passing food to their grandparents — looks almost priggish in contrast."

You have only to remember *Struwwelpeter* (Routledge & Kegan Paul) — moral instruction in verse for children which was first published in Germany at the beginning of the century — and *The Story of Fidgety Philip* to see that table manners are neither a modern nor British phenomena.

But *Fidgety Philip*. He won't sit still; He wriggles And giggles And, then, I declare, Swings backwards and forwards And tilts up his chair... See the naughty, restless child Growing still more rude and wild.

"Til his chair falls over quite. The fate of a modern *Fidgety Philip* would doubtless be to grow up into a bun-throwing Hokey Henry. But manners are far from an upper-class prerogative. In fact, those that despise manners as a bourgeois hang-up are probably right."

The upper classes have their etiquette but they have to learn it from a book (see Debutante's Etiquette and Modern Manners — "How to eat an orange," "How to hold a fork"). And the working classes may be strict on discipline, but the table does not take priority as it does for the middle classes.

It is often at the extremes of the social spectrum that you find the worst manners: the deprived offspring of the depressed unemployed and the sometimes even more deprived offspring of the absentee upper-class parents.

"Bad table manners," says Dr Berger, a child psychologist at St George's Hospital, London, "are



FRANCIS MOSLEY

'Everyone else has to endure their shouting'

setting up pre-conditions for anorexia and bulimia in later life." So that explains the story of Augustus who would not have any soup.

Look at him, now the fourth day has come

He scarcely weighs a sugar plum;

He is a little bit of thread.

And on the fifth day, he was — dead!

Berger advises moderation in manners. "I don't see the necessity to demand of children that they sit through the entire course of a meal when they are not being involved in the conversation. From my own children I would expect proper use of implements, but more for reasons of aesthetics and hygiene than because I am hung up on manners which is a highly class specific thing." A complicated way of saying bourgeois.

But then many of us would prefer to be bourgeois. "Letting children have unrestricted freedom," wrote American psychiatrist Rudolf Dreikurs in the 1960s, when being liberal with your child was just beginning to become fashionable, "has made them tyrants and their parents slaves."

Today, even the most easy-going child care experts, such as Penelope Leach — of the Children-have-Rights-Too school of thought, advocate the inculcating from an early age of basic standards of behaviour at the table.

Those without children can perhaps take a more objective view. Parents who cannot control their small children often find themselves becoming more and more isolated from their childless friends. A young journalist, far from reactionary in her views, complained that bad-mannered children bring everyone down to the lowest common denominator.

"I went to a dinner party at some friends who had a three-year-old. They were both professional, educated people — doctors in fact — but they just went down to their child's level, pandering to his every whim, so that the whole dinner revolved around him."

Nannies who see their immaculately behaved charges turn into ill-bred monsters at weekends put it down not to laziness but over-indulgence, with the parents compensating for guilt about being away during the week.

Virginia McLean, who trained and worked as a nanny for several years, but is now reading psychology at Birmingham University, says: "The parents don't like to make an issue of it so the child wins. And for some reason it seems to be a strategically important victory."

"Meal-times are the time when you can and should enforce rules that they can obey. But you have to set an example — I think it is very important to sit down to meals with the children, not just throw food at them."

Cultural changes in eating have contributed to a decline in standards. Meals on the move and television suppers have reduced eating to a mere bodily function. "Sharing meals reinforces the family circle," says Gillian Graves, an infant school teacher who has two young daughters.

"You have to work out what you consider acceptable standards of behaviour at table — for me that is sitting down to a meal, appreciating what you are eating and not doing anything obviously grotesque like spitting food out. But it is more a case of motivating your children to realize themselves what those standards are."

Manners are the public face of the family, which is why, sometimes, we perhaps care too much.

Sally used to enjoy buying last-minute treats for her family, but this year, with just four shopping days to Christmas, is different. "I'm paranoid that something will fall off a shelf and into my bag," says the 37-year-old mother. Last month, after looking for stocking fillers in her local chain store, Sally was wrongly accused of stealing.

British shops lose more than £1.5 billion every year through theft, and December is a particularly tempting time. Harry Shepherd, director of the Oxford Street Association, confirmed that crime rises in proportion to takings: "If they double, so does theft."

But in the fight to combat crime, mistakes are sometimes made. In Sally's case, she arrived home to find two police officers on the doorstep. "They asked me to empty my bag," she recalls. "Luckily I had a receipt for every item — but what if I hadn't?" The police said they had been called by the store's detectives and apologized, but Sally, who says she was made to feel like a criminal in front of neighbours, has so far failed to extract a written apology from the store.

In desperation, she turned to her local Citizens' Advice Bureau, which referred her to Crisis Counselling for Alleged

An uplifting experience

Many shoppers are wrongfully accused of stealing. Can crisis counselling help?

Shoplifters (CCAS). With its help she has been encouraged to continue fighting for some sort of redress.

CCAS, which is part-funded by the London Borough Grants Unit, was set up in 1981 by Harry Kauffner, whose work for the National Consumer Protection Council convinced him of the need for such an organization. He realized that many wrongfully accused people are ignorant of their rights and may be persuaded to act against their own interests. Each year a nationwide network of CCAS counsellors, supported by doctors and psychiatrists, helps between 3,000 and 4,000 people. They usually give telephone advice but in desperate, sometimes suicidal, cases they make home visits.

CCAS helps both those who are innocent, and others who, in their view, acted in

"mitigating circumstances", possibly because of naivety, confusion or medical reasons. They never help anyone who they believe acted with criminal intent — and if they have a criminal record, Kauffner tells them to get a good solicitor.

Patricia was on tranquillizers and having psychiatric treatment when she was picked up in a Croydon department store for shoplifting. When the police delivered a court summons at 10pm, she telephoned Kauffner threatening to kill her children and herself. With his help she found the courage to go to court to explain her case. At Kauffner's North London home there are filing cabinets full of letters from grateful clients: "Thank you Harry for saving my life" is typical.

Shepherd, however, believes the counsellors could do more harm than good. He says they

are "untrained and unprofessional". According to Shepherd, if someone is wrongfully arrested, they should bring a case against the store and attempt to get damages. "But mistakes are seldom made. Most store detectives are ex-police and it should be an invariable rule that they never make an arrest unless they see something with their own eyes."

Kauffner, whose group also supports shoppers when they take action against stores, is convinced that shops are mostly the architects of their own misfortune. He cites tempting shop displays and sweets arranged at child-eye level. Shepherd disagrees: "Since when has temptation been an excuse for rape?" Kauffner thinks stores should be forced to staple receipts to bags and security staff should be better vetted.

But the two agree that stores should make more efforts to check theft by staff. As a member of the Home Office working group on shop theft, Shepherd says: "We concluded that in some cases it may split 50-50 between employees and customers. Theft by staff is a damn sight more difficult to stop and often it is complicated by collusion between them and customers."

Jane Ferguson

Image booster

You have to be fairly successful to fork out £900 for a two-session course, and Price Waterhouse's new "Strategies for the Successful Woman" is aimed at those in senior management only, who may have reached a career plateau.

Run at the Warwick Management Centre in Slough, with one session already started this month and three more planned next year, it covers power and personal effectiveness, organizational politics, self-image and communication, alliances and support, self-projection and planning personal strategy. You can take one module on its own for £500 plus VAT. Details from Marion Gillic at Warwick Management Centre (tel 0753 34111).

Drink up

Worried about all the fizzy drinks the children consume over the holidays? Health-conscious parents will stock up on the Whole Earth range of soft drinks made without caffeine or artificial additives. Sweetened only with apple juice, they come in various flavours and cost 39p a bottle (89p for the large size) from health food shops.

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Quote me . . .



"Nowadays, if you can manage such a friendship with your ex-spouse it's the only sensible thing to do because of all those years together. With children to worry about, and love, it can be very good."

Michael Crawford

In scents

The Nottingham-based Le Pew perfumery, founded by Glenn Mannerfield, a 25-year-old marketing man from Sheffield, is to offer a bespoke perfume service next year. Its perfumers will create a unique blend for a customer for around £2,000. In the meantime you will have to settle for their £230-a-bottle *Esprit de Grasse*, bottled in lead crystal with the name in

gold. The Nottingham shop manageress, Jayne Bradley, says the concept of an independent perfumery, with saleswomen not working for a particular perfume house, has proved popular since the shop's opening in November. Mannerfield plans to open branches in Newcastle, Dudley, Liverpool and Edinburgh soon.

Flights of fancy

Does one of your loved ones fancy a Ferrari? If the spirit is willing but the wallet weak, why not indulge him or her with a Ferrari Kite? It is a four-foot square kite costing just £11.95 (plus 75p postage and packing) from M.L.A., 242/244 St John Street, London EC1P 4PH (tel 01-250 3988), or direct from the Kite Shop in Neal Street, Covent Garden. Semi-circular, with "cells" to catch the wind, the kite has no sticks or spars to break and is supposed to be impervious to wet weather. It can go like the wind without taking a ticket, and there are no worries about parking. The Ferrari Kite, incidentally, is nothing to do with Ferrari cars. Michael Lazarus, who markets it, explains: "It was invented by a Mr Ferrari and, fortunately, although Ferrari has registered its name for almost every conceivable thing, it did not think of registering it for kites."

Kitchen help

Should you find yourself on Christmas eve with a rock-solid frozen turkey and burnt mince pies, do not despair. Once again Bejam, together with cookery experts from *Woman's Own*, is running a telephone cookery helpline, between 10am and 4pm on Saturday, to offer expert advice and consolation on everything from how to thaw the turkey in the microwave to salvaging burnt pies, skinning chestnuts and making cranberry sauce. The number on Saturday is 01-951 1313.

Licking cancer

The stamps from your Christmas post could help research into breast cancer. The Jennie Campbell Appeal sells thousands of stamps to help fund its campaign against unnecessary mastectomies. The appeal organizer, Pam Nuttall, says: "It used to be the case that if you had a breast lump, off it came, but things are gradually changing." The appeal is named after a cancer-stricken journalist who refused a mastectomy and took part in successful radiotherapy trials. She died in 1981 of a separate cancer. Send stamps to the appeal at 29 St Luke's Avenue, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 7JZ.

Victoria McKee

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INFORMATION SERVICE

Sale wars: the scramble begins

After Christmas shopping comes post-Christmas shopping. Nicole Swengley provides a comprehensive guide to the best sales and bargains nationwide

STORES

LONDON

DEBENHAMS, Oxford Street, W1 (01-580 3000)
Selected Debenhams men's suits reduced from £120 to £70; selected cashmere women's coats reduced by £20. Half-price selected printed ready-to-hang curtains or 25% off lined velvet ready-to-hang curtains.
Dec 27-Jan 21 (starts Dec 28 in Scotland)

FORTNUM & MASON, 181 Piccadilly, W1 (01-734 8040)
A third to a half off in most departments except food and wine.
Dec 27-Jan 21

HARRODS, Knightsbridge, SW1 (01-730 1234)
Indo-Persian Kalmuri rug, 8ft 6in x 4ft 6in, reduced from £260 to £240; Indian shawls from £199 to £99. Women's 18ct gold Piaget bracelet watch from £1,500 to £525. Vesta Allegre plain white Sanyo portable heater, 1,500W, in food hall, 50% Sanyo heater reduced from £21 to £10.5. Debenhams duck down duvets half price, for example, double size from £199 to £99. Free personal CD player reduced from £259 to £149.
Jan 4-Jan 28

HARVEY NICHOLS, Knightsbridge, SW1 (01-255 5000)
Up to 50% off selected items of Calvin Klein, Krizia, Piret Ozbek and Armani. Up to 30% off selected items of Byblos, Louis Piret, Flora Kung. 50% off gifts on the fourth floor.
Dec 27 for a month

HOUSE OF FRASER, all stores including Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (01-834 1234) and House of Fraser, Kensington High Street, W8 (01-937 5432)
Extra 10% discount on sale and non-sale items for Frasercard holders on Dec 27 and 28. Hoover washing machines from £299 to £249. Sharp microwaves from £239.99 to £199.99. Hitachi 15in colour television from £299.99 to £249.99. Most fashion co-ordinates down by 25%.
Dec 27-Jan 31

JOHN LEWIS, Oxford Street, W1 (01-629 7711) and branches
China and glassware reduced by a third; large discounts on luggage; reductions on bed linen, bath linen and table linen.
Dec 29-Jan 7, Oxford Street, Brent Cross and Edinburgh; Dec 30-Jan 7, other stores

LIBERTY, Regent Street, W1 (01-734 1234)
Liberty print cotton furnishing fabric (slightly imperfect) down £11.50 to £7.50 per metre; 23in silk square down from £19.50 to £9.50. Liberty print Ascot silk Douppion 30cm dress fabric reduced from £25 to £9.95 per metre. Iranian meshed carpet, 3.57 x 3.04 metres, from £65.00 to £15.75. Half price designer labels including Workers For Freedom dress from £210 to £108. Half price Levi's jackets lined with Liberty print fabric, now £39.95.
Dec 27 for three weeks

PETER JONES, Sloane Square, SW1 (01-730 3434)
Reductions on china, glassware, fabrics and linens.
Dec 29-Jan 7

SELFRIDGES, Oxford Street, W1 (01-629 1234)
Fashion bargains include a third off all designer labels. Betty Jackson blouses down from £105 to £70; Paul Costelloe jacket from £210 to £190. Half price model hats, for example, Philip Somerville, from £210 to £105. Half price Fennell coats a third off, for example, from £205 to £138. 75% off evening wear, for example, Hyde.

STORES

OUT OF TOWN

BATH JOLLYS, Milsom Street, Bath (0225 6211)
Extra 10% off sale and non-sale items for Frasercard holders on Dec 27 and 28 in fashion, menswear and fashion accessories except shoes. Selected fashion reduced by up to 50%. Good reductions on dress fabrics, linens, footwear and carpets.
Dec 27-Jan 31

BIRMINGHAM RACIAMS, Corporation Street, Birmingham (021 226 5333)
Reductions in many departments including fashion, menswear, furniture, bedlinen and electrical.
Dec 27-Jan 31

BOLTON LEWIS, Oxford Street (0204 368888)
Moire taffeta 48in wide curtain fabric reduced by £2 to £4.99 per metre. Special purchase Telly MVT 600 watt microwave oven at £149.95.
Dec 27 for a month

CANTERBURY RICHMOND, St George's Lane (0227 766666)
Selected items of Mondri, Rodier, Yarnell, Betty Barclay and Gerry Weber at half price. Alibi midi system with CD player from £999 to £799. Parker Knox three seater sofa from £1,995 to £1,295.
Dec 27-Jan 31

CARDIFF HOWELLS, St Mary Street (0222 201055)
Extra 10% off sale and non-sale items for Frasercard holders on Dec 27 and 28 in fashion, menswear and fashion accessories except shoes. Reductions on furniture, electrical goods and linens. Pringle cashmere pullovers from £160 to £99.
Dec 27-Jan 31

EDINBURGH FRASERS, Princes Street (011 225 7472)
Reductions in fashions for men and women, electrical equipment and furniture.
Dec 27-Jan 31

GLASGOW FRASERS, 21-45 Buchanan Street (011 221 3888)
Reductions in many departments including fashion and designwear, furniture, bedlinen and electrical.
Dec 27-Jan 31

LEEDS LEWIS, The Headrow (0532 431111)
Up to 50% off fashion items. G Plan New Seasons wardrobe reduced by £75 to £99. Sanyo microwave oven set, 400W, reduced by £20 to £39.95. Up to 50% off designer labels including Paul Costelloe, Nicole Farhi and Royal Doulton.
Dec 27 for a month

LIVERPOOL LEWIS, 40 Ranelagh Street (011-730 7000)
Himali FST remote control colour TV reduced by £50 to £249.95. Special purchase Swan three place can set with matching free electric kettle, £27.50.
Dec 27 for a month

MANCHESTER KENDALLS, Deansgate (061 832 3414)
Reductions in many departments including fashion, furniture, bedlinen and electrical.
Dec 27-Jan 31

NEWCASTLE HOUSE OF FRASER, Metro Centre, Gateshead (091 493 8424)
Extra 10% off sale and non-sale items for Frasercard holders on Dec 27 and 28 in men's, ladies and children's fashion.
Dec 27-Jan 31

OXFORD PENWICK, St Ebbs Street (0865 722277)
Cashmere and wool coats £20 off; selected items of French Connection, Marc, Outset at half price.
Dec 27-Jan 31



Cashmere and wool coats £20 off; selected items of French Connection, Marc, Outset at half price.
Dec 27-Jan 31

SHEFFIELD HOUSE OF FRASER, High Street (0742 72121)
Extra 10% off sale and non-sale items for Frasercard holders in men's, ladies and children's fashion on Dec 27 and 28. Up to a third off selected fashion; up to 50% off selected upholstered ex-showroom suits.
Dec 27-Jan 31

SWANSEA DAVID EVANS, Princess Way (0782 651525)
Extra 10% off for Frasercard holders on Dec 27 and 28 in fashion, menswear and menswear. Fashion co-ordinates, small and large electrical goods, upholstered furniture reduced by 10% to 20%.
Dec 27-Jan 31

YORK PENWICK, St Mary's Square, 43-45 (01904 615555)
Fashion reductions include Jaeger, Alexon, Planet, Mondri, Yarnell, Windsor, Outset, French Connection, Jacques Vert. Half price jewellery. Peter England and Van Heusen men's business shirts reduced to £12.
Dec 27 for a month

YORK PENWICK, St Mary's Square, 43-45 (01904 615555)
Men's cashmere overcoats from £295 to £235; wool coats from £295 to £195. Ladies' classic raincoats from £210 to £125. Ladies' cashmere coats from £275 to £249.
Dec 27-Jan 31

AUSTIN NEEDLOPTIONS, 103-111 Regent Street, W1 (01-734 6789) and branches
Menswear: £20 off everything over £25; £15 off all jackets over £155; £40 off overcoats over £195. Womenswear: 10% off designer labels including Paul Costelloe, Nicole Farhi, Caroline Charles.
Dec 29-Jan 28

AQUASCUTUM, 100 Regent Street, W1 (01-734 6050)
Men's cashmere overcoats from £295 to £235; wool coats from £295 to £195. Ladies' classic raincoats from £210 to £125. Ladies' cashmere coats from £275 to £249.
Dec 27-Jan 31

BLADES, 8 Burlington Gardens, Savile Row, W1 (01-734 8911)
Hand-tailored uncollected bespoke suits reduced from £350 to £150.
Dec 28-Jan 31

DICKENS & JONES, 224 Regent Street, W1 (01-734 7070)
Everything half price in the Designer Room. Special purchase leather fashion gloves at £11.95 to £16.95. A third off Mens Chain collection, 42-44, 44-46, 46-48, 48-50. Classic 100% wool knitwear half price.
Dec 27 for a month

EDINBURGH PENWICK, 141 King's Road, SW3 (01-832 1055)
42-44, 44-46, 46-48, 48-50. Classic 100% wool knitwear half price.
Dec 27 for a month

ENGLISH ECCENTRICS, 165 Fulham Road, SW3 (01-832 7154)
A third off Mens Chain collection, 42-44, 44-46, 46-48, 48-50. Classic 100% wool knitwear half price.
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Dec 27 for a month

costs from £295 to £245; up to a third off classic blouses.
Dec 27 for a month

JASPER CONRAN, 37 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (01-584 9599)
Everything half price.
Now until mid-Jan

LAURA ASHLEY, 9 Harriet Street, SW1 (01-235 9797) and branches
Wool coat reduced from £175 to £99; 30% to 40% off shoes, dresses, jackets, knitwear and suits.
Dec 28 for two weeks

MIDAS, 27a Sloane Square, SW1 (01-730 7329) and branches nationwide
Wool coat reduced from £249.95 to £149.95; 30% to 40% off shoes, dresses, jackets, knitwear and suits.
Dec 28-Jan 31

NEXT, 54-56 Kensington High Street, W8 (01-838 4211) and branches
Menswear: formal shirts from £15.99 to £9.99; 30% to 40% off shoes, dresses, jackets, knitwear and suits.
Dec 28-Jan 31

SCOTCH HOUSE, 2 Brompton Road, SW1 (01-734 0205); 84 Regent Street, W1 (01-734 1234)
Womens' cashmere sweaters reduced from £110 to £79.95; lambswool from £29 to £19.95. Mens' cashmere reduced from £155 to £99.95; lambswool from £27 to £19.95.
Dec 27 for about two weeks

SIMPSON, Piccadilly, W1 (01-734 2002)
Womens' designer wear reduced by 30%; 50% off Paul Costelloe. Daks wool suits from £305 to £182.50. Menswear reduced by 30% including Cammi and Armani.
Dec 28-Jan 31

THOMAS PINK, 35 Dover Street, W1 (01-493 6779)
Womens' designer wear reduced by 30%; 50% off Paul Costelloe. Daks wool suits from £305 to £182.50. Menswear reduced by 30% including Cammi and Armani.
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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Smiths Industries in \$53.5m acquisition

Smiths Industries has added to its expanding US operations with the \$53.5 million (£29 million) acquisition of Times Microwave Systems, of Wallingford, California. Times supplies a variety of equipment, including cabling and connectors, for microwave transmission systems. It is expected to produce pre-tax profits of \$5.7 million in calendar 1988, on sales of \$28 million. Assets bought are valued at \$26 million.

Times will fit into Smiths' industrial products division, within a group of companies which provide interconnecting equipment for electrical, electronic and hydraulic systems. The purchase requires the blessing of US anti-trust authorities.

BSG expands in Germany

BSG International, the Birmingham motor dealer and components maker, is expanding into prams and pushchairs, through the acquisition of Teutonia, a German company, for £9.6 million. A goodwill element of DM15.7 million which has been written off over 15 years is included, and BSG will also take on Teutonia's debt of DM2.5 million.

London sales worth £27m

City Gate Estates, the property developer, has sold its 31,500 sq ft office development in Victoria, London SW1, for £19 million. The offices have been acquired for investment clients of American Express Bank. In another deal, City Site Estates sold the long lease, held on a building in Mount Street, W1, for £4.5 million, and a property in Conduit Street for £4 million.

BET in £24m deal

BET has acquired Pritchard Janitorial Supplies from ADT for a total cost of £24 million in cash, including the repayment of debt.

PJS's principal business is the warehousing and distribution of branded hygiene products to industrial and commercial customers. It has grown rapidly since being established 12 years ago and is the largest company in its field, with a turnover of about £30 million. It is based at Heathrow and has a national network of 29 depots, from which it distributes its product range to 26,000 customers.

Chemicals firm ahead

Disruption at Sutcliffe Spekman's carbon plant at Leigh, Lancashire, as part of a doubling of output there, cost the specialist chemicals group between £300,000 and £500,000 during the six months to end-September, but the company still increased pre-tax profits by almost 11 per cent to £633,000. There is to be no interim dividend payment to shareholders.

Braithwaite up to £1.8m

Braithwaite, the engineering group, saw pre-tax profits double, from £905,000 to £1.82 million, in the six months to end-September, after higher interest charges trimmed a 156 per cent trading profit increase to £2.47 million. Braithwaite is shortly to announce the sale of its SPP Pumps subsidiary. The interim dividend is 1p, while the shares advanced 4p, to 245p.

Simon in £10.5m buy

Simon Engineering is buying the Holder Pannac group for £10.5 million, of which £3.5 million is deferred for up to four years. The initial consideration of £7 million will be satisfied by the issue of 2.6 million shares, of which 1.8 million will be placed to raise cash of approximately £4.9 million for the vendors.

Holder Pannac designs and builds paper mills, as well as extending and refurbishing existing facilities. In 1987 the group had a pre-tax profit of £1.1 million on a turnover of £13 million, and net assets of £2.5 million.

Readicut takes bigger stage in style

Readicut's Dutch acquisition was the kind of deal that had to be done. The new management has worked wonders to transform an ailing company that had lost its way. But Readicut badly needed a move on to a bigger stage. For a business with a sizeable list of commercial customers that stage had to be Europe.

Visscher Group is a good choice, too. Its plant is modern, handily placed for the West German and French markets, highly efficient in its own right and capable of generating more throughput inside the group. It could add a worthwhile workload in time to Readicut's Drake Fibres operations which make the raw materials it needs aptly. Visscher's products also fit well with Readicut's Readicut management. The deal scores high marks for style and presentation.

It does not rate so highly for its financial impact. Some analysts see earnings dilution both in the year to March 1989, and more heavily in the trading period ending in 1990. The dilution is a function of the modest rating traditionally afforded to Readicut and the textiles sector generally.

Visscher comes in on a price/earnings multiple of no more than nine. Good value maybe, but more highly rated than Readicut's own paper. It will also contribute to a sharp

hike in Readicut's gearing, rising anyway thanks to some long-sighted capital expenditure projects. By the year-end the debt to net assets ratio may well be in the 35 to 40 per cent area, but a far cry from the sub-20 per cent level seen at the start of the year.

Neither the dilutive influence nor the impact on borrowings is likely to worry Readicut holders overnight. But they take a little of the shine off the deal.

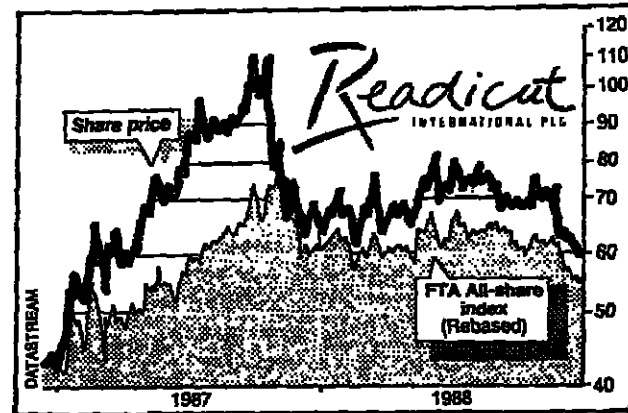
With Visscher making only a part contribution this year, profits are likely to emerge in the region of £20 million, giving earnings per share of about 8p. The dilutive effects of the deal mean that earnings growth will appear sluggish in the next financial year, all other things being equal.

Most of the pluses and minuses are reflected in the hefty discount built into the terms of the rights issue to finance the acquisition.

The new stock is being offered at 48p. With the shares trading at 58p, down only 4p from the overnight level yesterday, the market has taken a positive view in the light of past management successes.

Tiphook

Tiphook's disastrous flotation in 1985, with 85 per cent of the £6 million issue left with the underwriters, was followed by explosive growth which sug-



gested that the chairman, Robert Montague, was going for world domination.

Since then the signs are that Tiphook has scaled back its plans to more modest levels. So when it announced its biggest corporate move last month with the purchase of Rencos International, involving the issue of the equivalent of two-thirds of its existing equity, the shares actually managed to rise a few pence.

Pre-tax profits, up 73 per cent to £4.5 million in the half year to end-October, with no benefit from the Rencos acquisition, are somewhat confused by a trend towards a more even distribution of earnings in the two halves of the year which will become more pronounced once Rencos starts to chip in.

Another effect of Rencos is that more than half the profits

will come from the trailer rental side. Mr Montague is talking about doubling his trailer fleet over the next five years, with all expansion funded organically and without recourse to shareholders, to take advantage of the continuing trend towards rental business.

The container operation, the original core business, is also set for growth, although this will be held back by the rising cost of containers from the Far East producers.

The City has been concerned by Tiphook's level of borrowings, set to grow to £330 million by the financial year-end, or just under four times shareholders' funds, and covered 1.5 times by earnings. Other worries are exposure to rising interest rates and a falling dollar, although restricted by hedging, and to a general downturn in the economy.

Textron bids £125m for Avdel

By Wolfgang Münch

The future of Avdel, the British fastening systems producer, became increasingly uncertain as Textron, the US aerospace conglomerate, launched a £125 million takeover bid, offering 92p cash a share.

Although the offer has been recommended by the Avdel board, the bid battle for Avdel could still end in stalemate, since the rival Bannan Industries, the US industrial group headed by Mr Jeffrey Steiner, instantly rejected the offer. Bannan controls 43.26 per cent of Avdel's voting stock and said it would press on with its own, lower £88 hostile offer, which is final and expires on December 30.

Textron emerged as the mystery bidder at the end of last week, but at first insisted



Steiner: offer rejected

that its offer would be dependent on acceptance by Bannan. The decision to drop the limiting clause was reached in negotiations between Avdel, Textron and Schroders, the merchant bank advising Textron, late on Monday. Both

offers are now dependent on acceptances of more than 50 per cent, but City analysts remain doubtful whether, in the light of Bannan's stake and Textron's higher offer, any party will be able to reach the necessary 50 per cent level.

Avdel's shares rose only 1p to 89p on the news, reflecting market scepticism about Textron's 92p offer.

Avdel and Textron claim the support of 34.77 per cent of institutional shareholders. Avdel's management speaks for another 2 per cent, including options, as a result of which Avdel and Textron would need to persuade at least 13.25 per cent of the remaining 20 per cent shareholders to accept the offer.

The prospect of a deadlock complicates the position of

undecided and uncommitted shareholders. Some back Bannan's lower offer simply to avoid a deadlock.

If Textron wins, Bannan would have the consolation of a £6 million profit on its holding. A Textron-Avdel link-up would create one of the world's largest industrial fastening systems makers. Textron leads in the US, with sales of \$307 million (£168 million), which would rise to about \$450 million if it won Avdel. Both companies have co-operative agreements. Textron said it plans to help Avdel expand into the Japanese market, which represents 14 per cent of Avdel's business.

It is understood that if Textron succeeds, Avdel's management, led by Mr John Marley, chief executive, would stay.

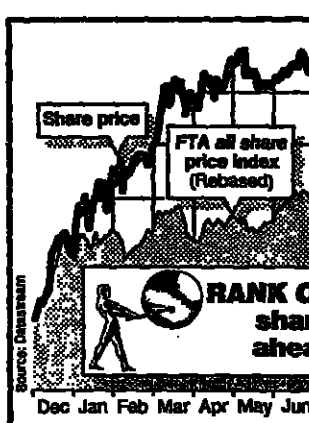
STOCK MARKET

Better economic news brings a little cheer to share prices

Share prices in London achieved some modest gains in this trading during the final run-up to Christmas, drawing inspiration from better-than-expected economic news on both sides of the Atlantic.

Further indications that Mr Lawson's measures to curb consumer credit and the rise in inflation are starting to bite were provided by the November money supply figures. Bank lending rose £5.6 billion, compared with the previous month's £6.1 billion. M0, the narrow measure of money, rose 0.2 per cent to an annual rate of 7.9 per cent - but it is still above the Government's original target.

In New York, the consumer prices index turned out to be in line with expectations, helping the Dow Jones industrial



One of the best moves of the session was seen at Rank Organisation, the fine art auctioneer, which jumped 37p to 645p as Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian businessman, emerged with a sizeable holding.

Carisbrook Holdings UK, his privately-owned company, has bought 2 million shares, or 6.11 per cent, at prices believed to be less than £6 a share.

After last night's surge in the Christie's share price, he is believed to be sitting on a profit of about £1 million already.

Christie's said Caledonia Investments, controlled by the Cayzer shipping family, has also increased its holding in the company to 2.17 million shares, or 6.37 per cent.

It is thought Cayzer has picked up the shares recently sold by Phillips Son & Neale. Dealers are wondering if

this could be the prelude to a battle for control of Christie's, which is no newcomer to takeover talk. However, the Cayzers have always insisted their holding is a long-term investment. Caledonia recovered an initial fall to finish unchanged at 357p.

The oil sector recovered some of its composure after Monday's shake-out in the wake of Lasso's sale of its 25 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil to Elf Aquitaine, the French state-owned oil group.

Dealers were clearly disappointed by the terms, which were below most estimates. Elf added to market gloom by agreeing to a one-year cooling-off period.

However, hopes remain high that Elf will eventually make a bid for the rest of the shares - possibly once the Government's golden share option has expired. Enterprise rallied 8p to

468p, compared with Monday's opening price of 546p, while Lasso recovered 10p to 472p.

Elsewhere, BP held steady at 256p. Premier Oil's share price hardened 1½p to 59p and Ultramar 4p to 277p, but Shell eased 3½p to 340p.

Rank Organisation, the leisure group, continued to edge towards its high for the year with a rise of 1½p to 714p - for a two-day gain of 20p.

The group is due to unveil full-year figures in the new year, with analysts looking for a rise in pre-tax profits of about £45 million to £253 million, increasing earnings per share 12p to 58.2p.

On the Unlisted Securities Market, Chelsea, the menswear retailer, returned

from suspension at 175p. The shares were frozen in November at 125p, while the group decided to pay Vivat Holdings, the troubled leisurewear group, up to £2.5 million for its 118-strong retailing business which trades under the names of Jean Jeanie, Jean Machine and FU's.

Camford Engineering enjoyed another bout of speculative buying, climbing 4p to 176p on the news that Mark Heath Securities, the British investment arm of Mr John Spalvin, the Australian entrepreneur, had raised its stake to 2.09 million shares, or 11 per cent of the equity.

Mr David Abell's Suter fell 3p to 189p as the agreed bid by Thomson T-Line was allowed to lapse. Thomson is now the target of a bid by Ladbroke, the leisure, property and hotels group, which is anxious to gain Thomson's Vermont football pools business.

Sema, the electronics group, continued to reel from Monday's profits warning, with a fall of 1.2p to 286p. The shares have fallen 39p in two days.

Michael Clark

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - Blue chips made strong gains in early trading, leading some brokers to say the market could be in a year-end rally.

The Dow Jones industrial average was trading 7.14 points higher, at 2,179.82.

● Tokyo - The Nikkei index closed 31.23 higher at 29,567.94.

● Hong Kong - Share prices closed mixed in tight trading, as investors left the market ahead of Christmas and New Year holidays. The Hang Seng index ended at 2,607.97, down 3.87.

● Frankfurt - The DAX index reached a 1988 high of 1,336.77, before closing 17.06 up on the day at 1,333.04.

	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 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Blow to unit trusts as new investment 'drops 30%'

By Vivien Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

The unit trust industry suffered another dismal month in November with net new investment down nearly 30 per cent, according to the Unit Trust Association.

The UTA is to consider a generic advertising campaign to boost sales at its executive meeting next month.

This would involve a levy on UTA members. Mr Bill Sutcliffe, the chairman, said: "I don't think a small-scale campaign would be worthwhile. It is a good time to do some type of generic campaign."

But he admitted that his own money was on deposit and he would not blame the

public for fighting shy of stock market investments.

The difficulty with a generic campaign is that the larger groups such as M&G would rather spend money advertising their own products — and without the support of the large groups, an industry-wide campaign is doomed.

Fidelity has always been a keen supporter of a generic advertising campaign. "It must be possible to devise a way to pay for it other than by funds under management, such as increases in sales following the campaign," said Miss Mary Blair, of Fidelity.

Mr Michael Short, of Hill Samuel Unit Trust Managers,

said: "We would support a generic campaign, but I'm not sure the life companies would."

Redemptions of unit trusts last month climbed to £553.3 million — the highest since March — prompted by high interest rates on offer from building societies and banks, and continuing uncertainty over equity market prospects.

November sales of unit trusts rose to £718.6 million from £630.3 million in October, resulting in a fall in net new investment from £234.8 million to £165.3 million.

The value of funds under management dropped from £42,271 million to £41,460

million, reflecting a soggy stock market which fell about 3.5 per cent last month.

The figures are an improvement on November 1987 when net investment plunged £12.7 million after the shares crash. Before then net new investment was running at more than £1,000 million a month.

Several unit trusts were included for the first time, bringing in £47 million of new investment. Scottish Amicable's three trusts raised £26 million, Cazenove's Portfolio fund £7.8 million, and three tracker funds were launched, UK and US funds from Morgan Grenfell and American Index Fund from James Capel.

Ashtead to pay £5.8m for Reliant

Ashtead Group is acquiring Reliant Plant, a company also specializing in plant hire, for an initial £5.79 million. The price will be satisfied by the issue of 1.89 million new shares at 240p a share and loan notes with a nominal value of £1.25 million.

In addition, a further 1.1 million new shares, raising £2.7 million, will be issued to cover acquisition expenses and provide additional working capital.

Almost all the new shares have been conditionally placed with institutions, subject to clawback. Shareholders are being offered the right to take up shares at the placing price of 240p a share, on the basis of one new ordinary for every five held.

The Woolwich Building Society has increased its investment rates by between 0.5 and 0.85 per cent. Top rate on the 90-day notice Premium Investment Account is 10.25 per cent net for more than £40,000 and 10 per cent for more than £20,000, while the instant access account pays 9.25 per cent on more than £20,000, all with interest credited annually.

TRN takeover

Thomson Regional Newspapers has applied for government permission to buy Sharman Newspapers, which has titles in East Anglia and the East Midlands. Lord Young, the Trade Secretary, has given third parties until January 4 to comment on the proposed takeover.

Barclays stake

Barclays Bank is selling its 20 per cent stake in Union Bank of Nigeria through an offer for sale to the Nigerian public expected to take place early next year.

Hanson sale

Hanson has sold Lowfield Distribution, the distribution and storage business acquired with Imperial Group, to a management team led by Mr John Toynoe for £10.7 million.

Talks ended

Bristar, the food division of S&W Bristford, has called off talks with Valhi Inc concerning the possible acquisition of an interest in its subsidiary, Amalgamated Sugar.

COMMENT

Pessimistic line from the Treasury in exile

Some of the older hands at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development — once known as the Treasury in exile — are probably quite enjoying a mild reprieve at the UK's expense. The top echelons at the Treasury have never concealed their view that the OECD is full of closet Keynesians who have not quite taken on board the Thatcherite revolution.

Now, the OECD in its half-yearly *Economic Outlook* is forecasting more persistent inflation than the Chancellor in his autumn statement, and a current account deficit which moves in the wrong direction. Admittedly this appears to have been projected before the latest rise in interest rates. The further tightening of monetary policy is likely to squeeze inflation out that much faster and to slow the growth in imports, giving the balance of payments a more palatable flavour. The OECD is also quite bullish about investment.

Nevertheless, although growth is expected to slow to only 2 per cent in 1990, the Paris-based forecasters expect underlying inflation, as measured by the GDP deflator, to be still above 5 per cent by the end of 1990. And although Britain's export markets will grow quite fast, the delayed effect of lower competitiveness as the pound has strengthened is forecast to handicap exports.

The slightly gloomy prognosis for

Britain is in striking contrast to the message on the rest of the world. Like everyone else, the OECD severely underestimated growth in the world economy earlier this year and has had to revise up its forecasts substantially. Growth in developed countries next year is now expected to average 3½ per cent, compared with 2½ per cent forecast in June. The OECD says hopefully that this provides a wonderful opportunity for governments to take those decisions on structural economic improvements which were too difficult when growth was slower.

The negative side is that faster growth increases the risk of higher inflation, which the OECD expects to accelerate among its member countries from 3½ per cent to 4 per cent next year. It also continues to be pessimistic about how fast the trade imbalances between the leading economies can be reduced. A small fall is expected in the US deficit and the Japanese surplus, but the German surplus goes the wrong way with an increase from \$45 billion to \$52 billion over the next two years. The OECD has, however, been over-pessimistic on this score before.

The challenge for British industry is to prove the OECD wrong, by taking advantage of buoyant export markets to switch sales from a gradually squeezed domestic market to buyers overseas.

Vickers still faces challenge

Vickers is looking less of a likely takeover bid target this morning, after the Ministry of Defence decision to choose the British maker's new version of its Challenger tank rather than the M1A1 Abrams built by General Dynamics of the US.

But Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, is still sitting there with an 8.65 per cent stake in Vickers, eyeing the company's potential break-up value. And he could well hold on because Vickers is still on trial with its new tank.

Government funding for the Challenger project is limited to the so-called demonstration phase for developing the new tank, lasting until 1990. So if by then Vickers has not demonstrated that it has surmounted the development hurdles the project might still be aborted in favour of the Americans.

The Vickers interims in the autumn were disappointing, but that was mainly because of non-recurring costs, including funding the new Challenger dev-

elopment. Currency could continue to prove a difficulty but the City is still looking for £60 million or so pre-tax for the full year, only slightly down on the last full year.

Some are pencilling in £70 million for 1989. That might prove conservative because capacity increases are coming through at Howson Algraphy, and Rolls-Royce motors has not been having Jaguar's scale of troubles with US sales.

It is hard to see how the Government could not have given the contract to Vickers, if only conditionally, because the company is Britain's last tank manufacturer, and without the contract, for 590 tanks at an estimated cost of £1.3 billion, some 10,000 jobs were conceivably at risk.

What the MoD may have gained by throwing the contract open to international competition is a more competitive price from Vickers. If it has done so, this will feed through to margins, unless Vickers is spurred to greater efficiencies.

Iceland claims 30% of Bejam

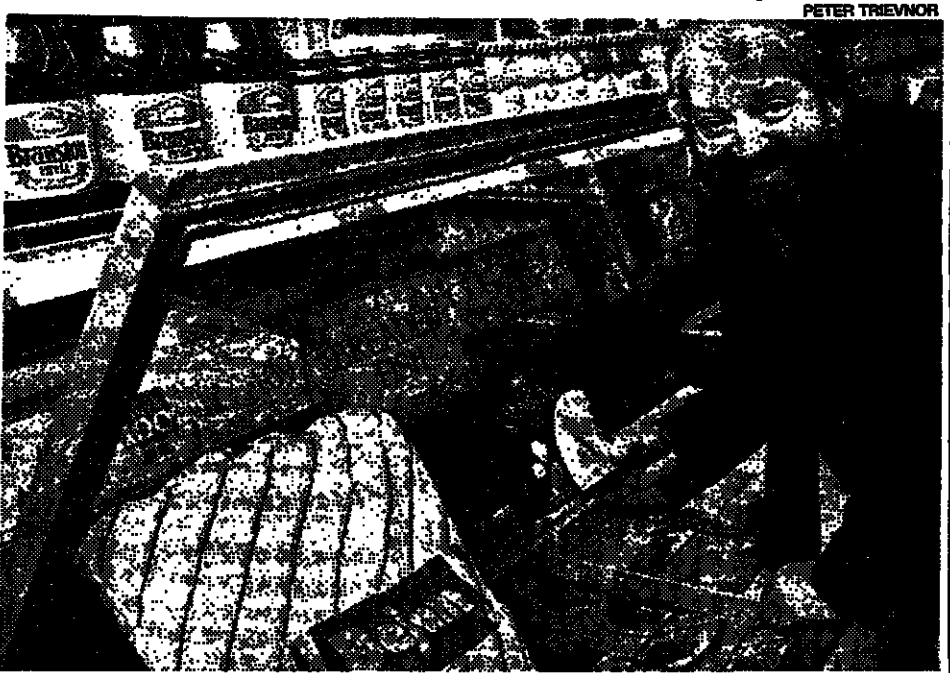
By Wolfgang Münch

The final shoot-out between the two pioneers of the frozen food business takes place today. Iceland Frozen Foods' £234 million takeover bid for Bejam expires at 1pm, and with less than 24 hours to go, Iceland was claiming 30 per cent of the Bejam equity.

Mr John Apthorp, founder-chairman of Bejam, and Mr Malcolm Walker, who heads Iceland, have often met to discuss, in Mr Apthorp's words, "how we can put our two businesses together." But Mr Apthorp made it clear yesterday that the last thing he had mind was a takeover by Iceland — Bejam is the larger of the two, with 10 per cent of the market, against Iceland's 4 per cent.

But Iceland has the more modern image, although Mr Apthorp rejects the charge that Bejam's is old-fashioned. "They only started two years after we did," he said. "Of course, their growth rates are larger, but they were starting from a smaller base." But Bejam faces an uphill struggle to shrug off its "Volvo-drivers' store" image.

Mr Apthorp started the business in 1968. It began operating from a 900 sq ft former banana warehouse in Edgware, Middlesex, when only 50,000 households owned freezers. Bejam still sells both the food and the equipment, which surprisingly



Cold comfort for frozen assets: John Apthorp awaits the outcome of Iceland's hostile bid.

earns the same margins as the frozen food.

In the 1970s, Bejam expanded mainly in the South-east. Iceland started in the North. Now the regions of overlap are increasing. Bejam obtained a listing in 1973, and until this year, achieved continuous profit growth.

But its expansion programme was less successful. This year, £25 million will be spent, mostly on out-of-town high-quality stores and cheaper inner city outlets, a

programme which has come under criticism for lacking business focus. Bejam profits stagnated this year at about £24 million.

But Mr Apthorp said Bejam's gearing will be neutral at the end of the financial year, which contrasts with Iceland's 80 per cent.

Unfortunately, perhaps, for its future share price performance, the company has been too often associated purely with Mr Apthorp. Aged 52, he retired last year to become

non-executive chairman. "I reckon I have done my 20 years," he said. "They were 20 years of hard work. But you have to realize that retailing is becoming a young man's game."

Mr Apthorp and his family own about 30 per cent of Bejam, which is committed against the bid. With Bejam shares down 1p at 157p, some 30p below Iceland's offer price, the market believes Bejam will see off the aggressor.

Woolworth in £3m sale to Harris

Woolworth has sold its five Home Centre businesses to Sir Philip Harris for £3.2 million.

The shops, an experimental chain launched alongside B&Q stores selling high-quality furniture usually found in high streets, opened in 1986. But Mr Nigel Whitaker, Woolworth's corporate development director, said: "They were not attractive in the long term as the economics were not in favour." He added that B&Q will continue to sell furnishing merchandise in its 232 centres.

Sir Philip has also bought 75 per cent of Harveys, a soft furnishings business, for £19 million.

Woolworth shares gained 1p to 229p.

Industrial gas users face price changes

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's industrial gas users have been told that many of them will have cuts in their gas bills if British Gas meets the recommendations of a recent Monopolies and Mergers Commission report. However, others have been told that it could mean their bills will rise.

British Gas is now talking to the Office of Gas Supply (Ofgas) about how to meet the recommendations of the MMC report. It has told its industrial customers that it will continue to supply a high-quality, competitive and reliable energy source, but that one of the MMC conditions could mean price rises.

British Gas's biggest industrial customers will be told in a

letter from the regional sales managers today that the company is prepared to meet all the conditions imposed by the MMC on pricing and the supply of gas to its non-tariff customers, effectively those industrial customers that buy gas on contract terms. British Gas has about 20,000 such customers, who negotiate individual gas contracts each year.

Under the MMC proposals, British Gas will have to publish a schedule of pricing for such customers on April 1. Thus it will have to agree such a schedule by the end of February, publish it, and then allow a month of discussions, putting it into effect from April.

National Telecom expands

National Telecommunications, the telephone systems management group, has made its first move into the mobile communications market with the £7 million purchase of Tactico from Evered Holdings.

Tactico is involved in supply and maintenance of mobile communication systems for public services, supply of cellular telephones and air time on Cellnet, and manufacture of a radio-linked intruder warning system.

National Telecom is issuing almost 5 million new shares, to be offered back to existing shareholders at 126p, along with 700,000 convertible shares and £1 million in loan notes.

County adds more Morgans

The market-making team at County NatWest Woodmac has, I hear, been further strengthened by two more of the men laid off by Morgan Grenfell. The appointments, added to the seven ex-Morgan men who signed on the dotted line last weekend, mean that County has netted nine of the 11 market-makers it approached with job offers. The two latest recruits are Mark Hodds, Morgan's erstwhile head of market-making in electrical stocks, and Philip Taylor, who specialized in property shares. The only two to decline County's offer were Mark Scates and Melvyn Brown, both of whom have agreed to go to Barclays de Zoete Wedd. "I think we can settle for nine out of 11," says a delighted Chris Cartwright, managing director of trading risk at County, and currently nursing a black eye after a piece of log he was chopping at his Kent home on Sunday hit him in the face. "But the sad news is that we are not now looking for any more market-makers from there — we have the ones we want." County has also recently recruited two senior European traders from Morgan Lehman — David Head, who has become head of European trading, and Adam White, his number two. It means that County is now vying for fourth position, in terms of market-making size, behind BZW, Smith New Court and Warburg. "But our objective is to be in the top three," Cartwright says.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Plessey's Troy of Walls

Plessey's colourful corporate Christmas card, which has just landed on desks in this office, shows a caricature of an embattled (and battlemented) Stephen Walls — managing director of the electronics and defence firm and leader of Sir John Clark's "defence committee" — peering down from the Plessey ramparts upon a snowy scene through which a recognizable Lord Westminster,

managing director of GEC, can be spotted handling a wooden horse. The boarded up, on skis, is of course labelled Siemens, the West German firm which, together with GEC, is currently engaged in a hostile bid battle for Plessey. But it is also interesting to note that the door of the Plessey castle, labelled "UJK" and alive with Union Jack motifs, has been left open...

Case closed

Professional company doctor Lewis Robertson, aged 66, has just worked himself out of yet another job. He will resign as chairman of Northwicks at its annual meeting on January 17, after successfully completing the task for which he was employed in 1985. That was to

cut borrowings, then £70 million; to reduce worldwide exposure to trading fluctuations; and to re-establish the group on a platform for growth. Yesterday's results revealed a £1 million profit against a £2.2 million loss previously. But Lewis does not expect to be unemployed for long. "My banking friends tell me that although many companies have pulled themselves out of trouble, high interest rates could now cause a few casualties." He adds that he ought to be able to teach the young Turks a thing or two. "After all, most of them have never lived through tough times," he says.

Safe driver

Clearly a London driver with a sense of fun. She was spotted in City Road, driving a white Porsche with the number plate ONP 1L.

Doctors' orders

While a growing number of stockbrokers lobby for a return of the stock market floor, one man who has managed to wangle a return to the Stock Exchange building in Throgmorton Street is John Doctor, a director of Kitcat Afken, the UK securities subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Canada, and once head of its UK equities division. Doctor, aged 48, will, I hear, be returning to the Exchange on February 1, to become an assistant director general of the Takeover Panel. He will be resigning from his Kitcat job — after 18 years — to become one of two individuals in the newly-created full-time post. The other is existing Panel employee Noel Hinton, who has been promoted from joint secretary. The new post will be fourth in the chain of command, beneath Lord Alexander, the chairman, Anthony Beever, the DG, and Peter Fraser and Peter Lee, the two Deputy DGs. "It will be fascinating work," says Doctor. "And as EEC regulations become more harmonized and international takeover activity continues to increase, the work there is going to become much more international."

Greenwell Montagu, the gifts market-maker, set a Christmas crossword competition for its clients, the prize for which was a magnum of champagne. The first correct entry came, however, from Warburg Securities, a rival firm. Greenwell Montagu is now having to make a decision on its eligibility.

Carol Leonard

Tiphook plc

Strong Growth & Expansion Continues

Interim results for the half year ended 31st October 1988 show a 60% increase in turnover, a 73% increase in profit before taxation, a 78% increase in profit after taxation, a 30% increase in dividend per ordinary share, and a 50% increase in earnings per ordinary share.

INTERIM RESULTS

FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 31st October 1988

Unaudited	1988	1987	Increase
TURNOVER	£45.1m	£28.2m	60%
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	£4.5m	£2.6m	73%
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	£4.1m	£2.3m	78%
DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY SHARE	2.15p	1.65p	30%
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY SHARE	12.8p	8.5p	50%

Robert J Montague Executive Chairman

NOTES

- The results for the year ended 30th April, 1988 are abridged from the Company's full accounts which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and which received an unqualified auditor's opinion.
- The accounting policy relating to the costs incurred in respect of new container rental agreements was changed during the year to 30th April, 1988 to write off costs as they are incurred, rather than amortising them over the average container rental period. The originally reported profits for the half year to 31st October, 1987 have been reduced by £0.3m to reflect the change.
- The corporation tax charge for the half year has been reduced to £0.4m as a result of capital allowances on tangible fixed assets.
- The interim ordinary dividend of 2.15 pence per ordinary share will be paid on 31st January, 1989 to ordinary shareholders registered at the close of business on 12th January, 1989.
- The earnings per ordinary share of 12.8 pence for the half year is calculated by dividing the Group profit after taxation and preference dividends, amounting to £4.0 million, by 31,259 million ordinary shares, being the weighted average number of shares in issue during the period.
- Pursuant to the circular to shareholders dated 15th October, 1988 the Company acquired the whole of the issued share capital of Rentco International Ltd on 11th November, 1988, issuing 17.5 million ordinary shares of 10 pence each.

TIPHOOK plc, LANCASTER HOUSE, 7 ELMFIELD ROAD, BROMLEY, KENT BR1 1LT, ENGLAND. TELEPHONE: 01-460 6060

• Ex dividend. • Cum dividend. • Cum stock split. • Ex stock split. • Cum all (any two or more of above). • Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for December 20						
Range	Cable	1 month	3 months			
New York	1.8040-1.8105	1.8080-1.8096	1.81-0.840p	1.48-1.49p	Argentina austral*	28.3400-28.5000
San Francisco	2.1848-2.1875	2.1875-2.1720	0.48-0.40p	0.83-0.72p	Australia dollar	2.1192-2.1240
Amsterdam	3.6181-3.6232	3.6189-3.6229	24-24p	65-70p	Belgium franc	121.51-122.20
Geneva	12.8855-12.8920	12.8855-12.8920	51-51p	16-14p	Ceylon pound	0.9660-0.9690
Duphryn	12.8855-12.8920	12.8855-12.8920	51-51p	16-14p	Denmark kroner	7.4590-7.4620
London	1.7833-1.7919	1.7875-1.7980	2-10p	14-10p	Finland markka	2.0000-2.0010
South Africa	3.0211-3.0211	3.0211-3.0211	2-10p	14-10p	France franc	166.65-166.65
East Asia	26.74-26.75	26.75-26.76	12-10p	81-194p	Germany mark	4.8607-4.8749
Madrid	207.07-207.08	205.95-207.70	20-40p	4-3p	India rupee	4.7500-4.7575
Paris	22.65-22.65	22.65-22.65	11-13p	31-31p	Italy lire	2.0100-2.0175
U.K.	1.8048-1.8107	1.8070-1.8099	11-13p	31-31p	Saudi Arabia riyal	8.7708-8.7708
Porto	10.6472-10.6480	10.6465-10.6477	4-53p	111p	Switzerland franc	3.5115-3.5114
Stockholm	1.0257-1.0257	1.0257-1.0257	7-6p	7-6p	Taiwan dollar	3.5000-3.5000
Tokyo	226.67-226.97	227.22-226.03	11-14p	31-31p	U.S. dollar (spot)	4.2302-4.2302
Zurich	22.42-22.51	22.35-22.49	10p-10p	31-31p	U.S. dollar (60 days)	6.6450-6.6550
Frankfurt	2.7102-2.7117	2.7075-2.7093	11-13p	31-31p		

* Approx. 1 p. Discount at 100.

Ireland	1.5045-1.5060	Denmark	6.8590-6.8710	Italy	1309.0-1310.0
Singapore	1.9480-1.9470	W Germany	1.7785-1.7795	Belgium (Cont)	37.32-37.57
Malaysia	2.8870-2.8700	Switzerland	2.0590-2.0540	Hong Kong	7.8090-7.8070
Thailand	1.7810-1.7780	Spain	163.90-164.00	Portugal	147.25-147.70
Canada	1.2000-1.2010	France	6.5080-6.5090	Greece	114.10-114.20
Sweden	6.1420-6.1470	Japan	126.05-126.15	Austria	12.45-12.48
Norway	5.6725-5.6775				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Ecol.

MONEY MARKETS

Euro Money Market		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %	
Overnight (Bankers 13)	12%	Currency	7 day 1 month 3 month
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Dollars	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Swiss Franc	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	German Mark	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Italian Lira	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Spanish Peseta	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Portuguese Escudo	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Belgian Franc	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Dutch Guilder	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Austrian Schilling	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Swedish Krona	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Norwegian Krone	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Finnish Markka	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Yugoslav Dinar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Czech Koruna	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Slovak Koruna	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Hungarian Forint	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Romanian Leu	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Bulgarian Lev	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Greek Drachma	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Turkish Lira	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Israeli Sheqel	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Indian Rupee	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Pakistani Rupee	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Sri Lankan Rupee	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Thai Baht	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Singapore Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Malaysian Ringgit	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Philippine Peso	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Indonesian Rupiah	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Japanese Yen	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Korean Won	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Chinese Yuan	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Hong Kong Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Taiwan Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Zimbabwe Dollar	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	South African Rand	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Botswana Pula	5.00-5.25 5.12-5.25 5.12-5.25
Overnight (Market 12)	12%	Namibian Dollar	5.

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
77-02 100						US Treasury Bond					
Dec 99	117.90	118.10	117.60	117.90	100	Mar 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
Mar 00	117.90	118.10	117.60	117.90	100	Jun 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
Three Month Eurodollar						London Call					
Dec 99	97.25	97.35	97.15	97.25	100	Mar 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
Mar 00	97.25	97.35	97.15	97.25	100	Jun 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
Jun 00	97.25	97.35	97.15	97.25	100	US Treasury Bond					
Sep 00	97.25	97.35	97.15	97.25	100	Dec 99	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
						Mar 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
						Jun 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
						Sep 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
Three Month Eurodollar						London Call					
Dec 99	97.25	97.35	97.15	97.25	100	Mar 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
Mar 00	97.25	97.35	97.15	97.25	100	Jun 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
Jun 00	97.25	97.35	97.15	97.25	100	Sep 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
Sep 00	97.25	97.35	97.15	97.25	100	US Treasury Bond					
						Dec 99	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
						Mar 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
						Jun 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100
						Sep 00	95.82	95.92	95.62	95.82	100

COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX			LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
			Contract prices (unless previous day)			
COCA			Cash		3 month	Real/Walt
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	(Russo)	1850-1850	1765-1765	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract A	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract B	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract C	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract D	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract E	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract F	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract G	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract H	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract I	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract J	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract K	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract L	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract M	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract N	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract O	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract P	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract Q	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract R	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract S	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract T	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract U	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract V	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract W	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract X	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract Y	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract Z	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AA	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AB	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AC	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AD	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AE	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AF	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AG	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AH	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AI	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AJ	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AK	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AL	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AM	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AN	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875
Jan 252-53.75	W J Jaynes	Sm 585-585	Contract AO	1840-1840	1755-1755	58-875

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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Comeragh King to take command

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Jimmy Fitzgerald and Gordon Richards look like being the most successful trainers today at Edinburgh where each can enjoy a double.

Interestingly, they both have a runner in the Charming Developments Handicap Chase, the day's most valuable race.

In this instance, Fitzgerald should have the right answer in the form of Comeragh King, who finished a highly commendable fourth in the A Fudge Gold Cup at Cheltenham last time out.

While critics will point, with every justification, to the fact that he has never won over today's distance of three

miles that can be countered by pointing out that he is bred to get the trip, and that he will never stand a better chance of doing so than in a three-horse race around a track as sharp as Musselburgh's.

In contrast to Comeragh King, Villierstown performed very badly at Cheltenham last time when he finished a long way last in the race won by Comeragh King's stable companion, Bucko. Yet he has won over today's course and distance.

On balance, it has to be Comeragh King to be the third leg of a treble for his jockey, Mark Dwyer, who can also win the first two races on the programme on Boldeden (12.15) and Kewinsfort (12.45).

The latter is one of three horses that Fitzgerald has sent to the meeting from his base at Malton in the heart of Yorkshire. Gold Options is the third.

While I maintain that Kewinsfort (nap), who has been a model of consistency this season, should be capable of giving weight and a beating to his three rivals in the Glaselind Securities Yuletide Handicap Chase, I doubt Gold Options coping with one so good as Tartan Tailor in the Rush and Tompkins Novices Chase.

At Ayr last Friday, Tartan Tailor, who is owned by local Woolen Mill incidentally, finished alone. That result was in complete contrast to his only

other race over fences last season when he fell heavily and lost his confidence.

As that race at Ayr should have restored it, a horse capable of winning at Cheltenham in March besides finishing sixth in the Champion Hurdle as Tartan Tailor did, ought to be up to searing off Gold Options who could not beat Clever Folly at the last meeting.

Earlier in the day, Sweet City can indicate the Richards double by winning the Levy Board Novices Hurdle. That win at Ayr last Saturday was no more than he deserved after finishing second in his previous races.

At Bangor, the former England and Manchester City

footballer Francis Lee, now an enthusiastic permit holder not to mention successful businessman, can also enjoy the fruits of triumph by landing a double with Shirkhan (2.30) and String Player (3.0).

Shirkhan, my selection for the Maeslin Novices Hurdle, was a pretty useful horse on the Flat in Germany.

In his only race in this country over hurdles he performed promisingly enough when finishing third behind Lavrosky at Market Rasen.

String Player, who was a pretty decent hurdler on his day and clean enough in the wind to win first time out last term, will have class on his side when he contests the Royalty Novices Chase.

Fitzgerald receives £600 fine

Malton trainer Jimmy Fitzgerald was clearly shocked by the severity of a £600 fine handed out to him by the Jockey Club yesterday after one of his horses was testily tested for a prohibited substance.

A sample taken from Fitzgerald's horse, winner of the first division of the Galesby Evening Telegraph Juvenile Novices Hurdle at Market Rasen on December 13, was found to contain Tetraammonium.

The cost of development at Lingfield needed to provide the facilities it requires will cost a total of £2.5 million, the residue of the loan being provided by the racecourse company.

The extra funding from the Levy Board was a surprise. "The increased capital contribution reflects the strength of the Board's own commitment, which will benefit both the racing and bookmaking industries," an official statement explained.

Fred Clarke, chairman of Lingfield, said: "The financing of the scheme was offered at our presentation last month on the sticking point and we went back with a trimmed capital spend. The track will be the first priority, and should be ready for November 1 next year, and redevelopment plans for the Epsom stand will go ahead after that," he said.

"We've brought in new caterers and we've improved the conference facilities and the golf course. They will generate a need for better hotel facilities and we will build a new one in time to open only so much we can do for now."

Lingfield hopes to produce extra revenue by being granted six Saturday evening meetings, but so far the racing authorities have given approval for only three in 1990.

Fred Clarke will be pressing for more money from bookmakers. He believes that betting shops broadcast all-weather fixtures, SIS should pay fees over and above the rates agreed with the Racecourse Association for racing on grass. "I don't accept that the current agreement is valid. It costs a fortune to operate an all-weather facility and should be paid for it," he asserted.

There is growing acrimony among rivals for the northern circuit. Nottingham, which could be taken over by Lingfield's former owner, Muddle, is presently owned by the local council and leased to a subsidiary of the Jockey Club.

Nottingham's racecourse company chairman, Peter Player, said: "It is his (Muddle's) plan that jumping and Flat racing should take place on the same grass course. That would be very detrimental to the going for the Flat season, and leading trainers would not be prepared to race potentially high-class horses on cut-up ground."

The policy and resource committee of Nottingham council met yesterday to discuss the proposals, and turned down Muddle's initial proposals, while Doncaster is re-examining its plans to see if it can overcome losses in its early years of operating an all-weather facility.

Lingfield has extra funding for first all-weather track

By Graham Rock

The Levy Board and stewards of the Jockey Club have given Lingfield Park approval to stage racing on an all-weather surface.

The interest free loan granted by the Board has been increased by £500,000 to £1.5 million, but there is no decision yet on whether Doncaster or Nottingham will be the northern all-weather site.

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Sherwood misses out on Nice Dynasty's victory

Simon Sherwood, desperately hoping to be fit to ride Desert Orchid in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park on Monday, missed another winning ride when Nice Dynasty, trained by his brother Oliver, made a successful debut over hurdles at Folkestone yesterday.

Simon, who received a very unpleasant kick in the stomach when Guesling fell at Huntington on December 7, hopes to ride out tomorrow. Oliver said: "If not Thursday then Friday, and if he can't make it on Friday he won't be able to ride on Kempton on Boxing Day."

Nice Dynasty, who won three times on the Flat in France for Alan Clark and once took on Soviet Star, looked like winning a long way from home yesterday, but in the end it took him a very long time to wear down Montagu's Force and score close home by length.

Charles Party, last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, is also reported well and a definite runner.

The race, with six acceptors, is the smallest since Burrough Hill Lad beat two rivals in 1984. But the four other entries are likely to run.

Toby Balding confirmed that Kidmore, who finished fourth to Ballyhane in Saturday's SGB Chase at Ascot, will participate.

Vodkatini, three times successful over two miles this season, will also take his chance.

John Edwards has Bob Tisdall in the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby on same day, but is now likely to go to Kempton.

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EDINBURGH

Selections

By Mandarin

12.15 Boldeden.

12.45 KEVINSFORT (nap).

1.15 Sir Speedy.

By Michael Seely

12.15 Boldeden. 2.15 Sweet City. 3.15 SPECKYFOUREYES (nap).

Going: good to firm

12.15 CRAIGMILLAR OPPORTUNITIES TRUST CHRISTMAS MAIDEN HURDLE (2241: 12 runners)

1 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
2 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
3 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
4 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
5 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
6 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
7 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
8 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
9 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
10 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
11 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
12 P/ BOLDENKATE 488P (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

BETTING: 11-4 Boldeden, 7-2 First Record, 4-1 Kewinsfort, 5-1 Cuck Sparrow, 10-1 Miss Emily, 12-1 others.

1987: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM BOLDENKATE, an Epsom handicap winner on the Flat in 1987, drops in class following an opening effort on Newbury debut behind Cracking Altitude.

FAST RECORD won two mile races on the Flat this summer, both with some effort on Newbury debut behind Cracking Altitude.

AL-ALAM won a Hamilton handicap (1m 6f) in the summer. Showed best hurdles form at Cheltenham last time.

Wine when 12th of 18 to Yachin.

PALE LAD placed four times in Carlisle and Perth bumper.

NATURALLY ASTUTE has yet to recapture the form of a 1986 5th to Lott's Fury at Kanto on first outing last season.

Selection: Kewinsfort

12.45 GLASSELIND SECURITIES YULETIDE HANDICAP CHASE (21437: 2m) (4 runners)

1 45-1221 KEVINSFORT 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
2 3P-4481 GOLDEN FANCY 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
3 2-3055 AL-ALAM 18 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
4 288008 MILLSTREAK 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
BETTING: 4-5 Kewinsfort, 5-1 Golden Fancy, 5-1 Al-alam, 10-1 Millstreak.
1987: WISE CRACKER 5-10-6 P Naves (5-1) P Bockley 7m

WON 4th chase, but this is his first run over fences this season.

AL-ALAM has been disappointing this season and is held by Kewinsfort on Southwell running (2m 7yd, 5th) earlier this month.

MILLSTREAK bids to lose his maiden tag after a run of 40 defeats.

Selection: Kewinsfort (nap)

1.15 CRAIG PARK FEAST OF STEPHEN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (2781: 2m) (9 runners)

1 255255 SIR SPEEDY 16 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
2 0570-0 BOCKE BARKER 74 (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
3 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
4 3-403 EVERLIFT 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
5 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
6 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
7 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
8 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
9 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
BETTING: 5-2 Sir Speedy, 10-50 Everlift, 9-2 Dainbro, 5-1 Moloch, 10-1 Bocke Barker, 12-1 others.

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AL-ALAM has been disappointing this season and is held by Kewinsfort on Southwell running (2m 7yd, 5th) earlier this month.

MILLSTREAK bids to lose his maiden tag after a run of 40 defeats.

Selection: Kewinsfort (nap)

BANGOR

Selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Forest Flame.

1.00 Gadbrook.

1.30 Galadry Kris.

2.00 Hand Over.

3.00 Spring Player.

3.30 Unpaid Member.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.00 COMRA.

Going: good to soft (chase course); good (hurdles)

12.30 MATES CROSS STAYERS HURDLE (N-Y-C: 2680: 2m) (18 runners)

1 113 BANK VIEW 13 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
2 01 CAMPER SPRING 11 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
3 P/ DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
4 P/ DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
5 P/ DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
6 P/ DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
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13 P/ DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
14 P/ DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
15 P/ DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
16 P/ DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
17 P/ DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
18 P/ DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
BETTING: 11-4 Bank View, 7-2 Camper Spring, 9-2 Dainbro, 5-1 Dainbro, 10-1 Dainbro, 12-1 others.

WON 4th chase, but this is his first run over fences this season.

AL-ALAM has been disappointing this season and is held by Kewinsfort on Southwell running (2m 7yd, 5th) earlier this month.

MILLSTREAK bids to lose his maiden tag after a run of 40 defeats.

Selection: Kewinsfort (nap)

1.00 GADBROOK (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

1.30 GALADRY KRIS (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

2.00 HAND OVER (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

3.00 SPRING PLAYER (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

3.30 UNPAID MEMBER (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

1.15 CRAIG PARK FEAST OF STEPHEN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (2781: 2m) (9 runners)

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8 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
9 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
BETTING: 5-2 Sir Speedy, 10-50 Everlift, 9-2 Dainbro, 5-1 Moloch, 10-1 Bocke Barker, 12-1 others.

WON 4th chase, but this is his first run over fences this season.

AL-ALAM has been disappointing this season and is held by Kewinsfort on Southwell running (2m 7yd, 5th) earlier this month.

MILLSTREAK bids to lose his maiden tag after a run of 40 defeats.

Selection: Kewinsfort (nap)

1.00 GADBROOK (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

1.30 GALADRY KRIS (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

2.00 HAND OVER (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

3.00 SPRING PLAYER (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

3.30 UNPAID MEMBER (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59

1.15 CRAIG PARK FEAST OF STEPHEN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (2781: 2m) (9 runners)

1 255255 SIR SPEEDY 16 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
2 0570-0 BOCKE BARKER 74 (M Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
3 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
4 3-403 EVERLIFT 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
5 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
6 0-3891 DAINBRO 8 (J Parnell) E Alton 5-10-12 N Dwyer 59
7 0-3

Awakening in self-confidence

The victory of Liselotte Neumann in the United States women's Open Golf championship in 1983 astonished the Swedish sporting public even more than the recent Davis Cup defeat. Only a little less so did Anders Forsbrand's victory in the European Masters in Switzerland in 1982. There is a growing self-confidence in the game. Such as that in athletics during the 80s, when Gunnar Hage, Arnie Anderson, Lennart Strand and others rallied the middle distances.



THE SWEDISH MESSAGE

Swedish golf has been developing in parallel with tennis for the past generation. Following the recent qualifying tournament in La Manga, there are now, remarkably, 10 Swedish professionals with a card for the European tour, and it is possible that for the first time, a Swede could be included in the European team to defend the Ryder Cup at The Belfry next autumn.

Mats Lanner, from Gothenburg, was beaten for the last automatic place in the select team of Dublin, Ohio, in 1987, by Matt D'Arcy, the eventual match winner, the same year that Lanner equaled Egon Sellberg by winning the Epsom match play grand prize.

Until 1973, golf in Sweden had been a relatively insignificant sport. During the 50s and 60s it had remained the social privilege of a minority of amateurs. Then along came Bengt Lofgren, a new general secretary of the Federation, whose personal sporting experience was primarily competitive shooting.

It may have been coincidence, or it may have been his instinct for improving the competitive side of the game together with a publicity programme to popularize its image for a wider public. Perhaps the development in golf would have happened anyway, alongside the upsurge in many sports. The fact is, however, that in each of the three decades the numbers of golfers has more than doubled: from 12,600 in 1960 to 40,000 in 1970, 88,000 in 1980 and already 210,000 in 1983. This represents three per cent of the population, compared with two per cent playing the game in Britain; yet with 232 golf clubs, there are only two public courses.

The next significant moment came in 1981. Forsbrand, one of the leading amateurs, decided to turn professional and in November that year earned a tour card. Forsbrand had broken the ice. In 1982, Sweden won the Eisenhower Trophy for amateurs, and the entire team of Sellberg, Magnus Persson and Krista Kinnell also turned pro. "Team Sany" was created, under the sponsorship of the aero-motor manufacturer, led by Jan Blomqvist, the former national team captain.

In 1986, the Federation, which had hitherto only been concerned with amateur golf, controversially decided that the sport should be open. The Federation had previously exercised a liberal attitude - viewed with some alarm in the stringently disciplined committee rooms of the Royal and Ancient, the control centre of golfing regulations outside America - that it was possible for amateurs to be paid.

The alarm, it must be said, still exists though there was surprise, and some concealed amusement, when the Swedes failed to challenge the United States in the recent Eisenhower event, unexpectedly won by Britain. The Swedish women's team finished runners-up to the US in the Espirito Santo amateur tournament. Sweden's "flexible" amateurism means they now have some 7,000 B-Licence non-amateurs. "Nowadays, only the young are amateurs," Anders Nordlund, the assistant editor of *Svensk Golf*, the official Federation magazine, says ingenuously.

The game, irrespective of status, flourishes. The satellite Swedish tour of 17 tournaments including the Scandinavian Open, will this year be worth more than a million pounds.

Anders Garderud, the 3,000 metres steeplechase Olympic gold medal winner in 1976 at Montreal, is now chief national coach of the athletics federation. While Sweden continues to produce athletes such as Patrick Sjöberg - the 1987 high jump world champion

In his second report on sport in Sweden, David Miller finds golf flourishing and athletics working to dispel a poor image

and bronze medal winner in Seoul - Garderud thinks that contemporary athletic prowess is impeded by four factors:

The attraction of other such (endurance) sports as Nordic skiing, the measurement factor athletics which exposes the competitor to critical public judgement of every performance; the financial attraction of football, golf or tennis; and the knowledge that international athletics is riddled with drug abuse which in heavy events is almost a prerequisite.

"In football, ice hockey and cross-country skiing, the public does not look at (measured) times," Garderud says. "They can still enjoy what may be technically a poor performance but something that is still exciting in the result. If you don't throw or weightlift high or heavy enough, the spectators won't come. The drug threat means that some sports will either live or die. Credibility is at stake."

"Twenty years ago, athletes competed to meet other people. You don't hear of that any more. Sport has become more a matter of money, a 'career' - everyone in Sweden is disgraced with the drug scandals in Seoul, and was watching with a kind of disbelief."

Sweden won the 4 x 10km cross-country Nordic race in Calgary, and Gunde Svahn the 50km individual event. The Swedish women were sixth in their relay. "If any of our skiers were found to be doped, it would be a catastrophe," Garderud says. "It's a national sport."

Although he admits the existence among some Scandinavian runners of blood-doping - Valerio, of Finland, was positive in Los Angeles in 1984 because he reinserted his own previously drugged and extracted blood when otherwise he was no longer positive - he is adamant that exceptional running or skiing is possible with the right intense, and often painful, training.

"In 1974, I was training in Spain with the Finnish runners," Garderud says. "I saw the pain they suffered, and they knew they could run faster than anyone else. It is the same with our leading skiers now. Yet at 5,000 or 10,000m on the track you can only run once or twice a season at a peak, because you need great mental strength to learn to live with the pain in a championship event, the way Svahn and Wassberg do in skiing."

The only positive test of a Swedish athlete has been on Linda Haglund in the early 80s, when both she and her coach were suspended. Garderud, in common with the IOC Athletes' Commission,



Forsbrand: paved the way for other Swedish golfers when he turned professional in 1981

recommends a life ban for use of steroids or testosterone, but less severe penalties for caffeine and minor drugs. Such abuse was never something he considered himself; though at High School he was aware that steroids were increasing some pupils' performances by 20 per cent. Current random testing in Sweden is four or five times a year: anyone refusing beyond 24 hours of a request is declared positive.

Youth involvement in Swedish athletics is none the less increasing, with the help of publicity and promotion, and there are now more than 1,000 athletic clubs; and a host of promising youngsters, such as Johnny Danielsson, the young-

est 5,000m finalist in Seoul, aged 24, who finished tenth. Garderud is optimistic that Danielsson can win a medal in the next European, world or Olympic championships. He was 30 when he won in Montreal. Morgan Tolfen, aged 17, was fifth in the world junior championships 5,000m in Sudbury this year; and is a "defector" the other way, from skiing to track.

Garderud is optimistic that human nature can be as great a force against drug exploitation as for it: that people need to explore their own potential for fulfillment of any genuine talent. This attitude is a fundamental characteristic of the Swedish sporting philosophy.

Sam in Olympic track and field. "When we need him... he is a fully fledged citizen, our dearly beloved equal, and a true American. At other times, he remains just plain nigger, and we'd rather he weren't around, because he represents a problem."

Yet, Owens was always a moderate rather than a militant black, proving far too conservative (or Uncle Tomish, depending on his critics) in his attempts to dissuade Tommie Smith and John Carlos, in 1968, and Vince Matthews and Wayne Collett, in 1972, from their Olympic podium snub of the US flag and anthem.

Despite an academic style, largely out of keeping with current American sportswriting - still generally the best in the world - Baker has succeeded in building a fascinating account of Owens' life, filled with the minutiae, which gives the lie to the myths and ideas recycled by the media. Owens' life is a pseudo-history, but it is a valuable social history of a crucial time of change in the United States, sketched out by Owens' own words, and by the words of those who knew him. Owens' life is a valuable social history of a crucial time of change in the United States, sketched out by Owens' own words, and by the words of those who knew him.

TENNIS

ATP fall into old trap of blurring important events

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The Association of Tennis Professionals, which is to replace the grand prix circuit with a tour of its own in 1990, has already failed in one of its main declared purposes: to make the structure of the tour easier for the public to comprehend. The ATP is to grade its tournaments as "championship series" or "world series".

The grand prize has raised images of petrol stations by labelling its tournaments "super" or "regular". The ATP, having reasonably suggested that the grand prize was meaningless, has fallen into the same trap - nomenclature that tells the public nothing.

The distinction between championship series and world series will be clear only to those within the game. The public at large cannot be expected to know which series is the more important.

Tennis administrators have always been reluctant to call a spade a spade. It is doubtful if they know the difference between a spade and a shovel and to expand that analogy, they would probably prefer (vide Chambers) the expression "a broad-bladed digging tool".

The plain truth is that some tournaments matter more than others. To blur the distinction is no service to the public; nor to the "aggressive marketing" that is another component of ATP policy. If the ATP genuinely seeks clarity it should think again and use such blunt words as "first" and "second" or "major" and "minor".

The provisional ATP schedule for 1990 envisages 19 championship series tournaments (13 with "prize-money" of at least a million dollars and six with half that) and 50 or more world series

tournaments. One quotes the words "prize-money" because about a quarter of the total will go to the ATP as a "tour fee", rather than to the competing players.

There will be an "off-season" of about eight weeks at the end of the year. In considering applications for tournaments, a committee representing players and tournaments will be governed, primarily, by eight criteria.

These criteria are listed as "history of contribution to the game; professional experience in the management of tournament tennis; surface; facilities; and seating capacity; prize-money; market; player services; and length of commitment".

That list excludes support for charities but the tour organizers "hope and expect" that participating tournaments will make such donations. It is reasonable that charitable contributions should be voluntary. They are a private concern for individual consciences, modified by individual or corporate resources.

Finally, Wimbledon confirmed yesterday that, subject to contract, it had transferred to an independent West German company exclusive distribution rights - throughout western Europe, except for the United Kingdom - for televised coverage of the championships.

This five-year deal has been agreed because UFA Film made a better offer - including more hours of coverage than the former contractors, the European Broadcasting Union.

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Men's Tennis Council has warned the ATP that the 1990 will lose money. Marshall Hapner, the MTC administrator, said the ATP's tour would operate in the red.

Loosemore party to a poor service

From Barry Wood, Sydney

Sarah Loosemore lost 7-6, 6-2 yesterday to Rachel McQuillan, of Australia, in the second of her round-robin matches in the Coca-Cola Youth Masters tournament.

Loosemore's service let her down against a steady rather than spectacular opponent, and six double faults and an inability to get her first service in, especially in the second set, took much of the pressure off McQuillan, who admitted she thought herself lucky to escape a desperately close opening set.

Loosemore suffered a loss of 12 straight points from one-ail, trailed 3-5, and then recovered to lead 3-6. Despite holding two set points in the next game, and one in the tie-break, she conceded the set and the rest of the match then fell swiftly away.

Without using it as an excuse, Loosemore admitted that a sore throat, which left her "feeling a bit heavy in the head", may have influenced the outcome. Jo-Anne Faulkner, who arrived at the National Tennis Centre from Japan, lost 6-1, 6-3 to Anne Davies, but surprised herself by later recovering to beat Emmanuelle Dery 6-4, 6-4.

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SKIING

Christmas bonus for Girardelli

From Iain Macleod, St Anton, Austria

If the weather permits - and all the signs yesterday were that it will - Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, should spend the festive season content in the knowledge that his one-man band is at least the equal of larger concerns with infinitely greater resources.

The Austrian-born skier has more reason than most for hoping that this week's World Cup men's downhill and slalom races proceed here as scheduled. Ten days ago, Girardelli's non-participation in the two downhill at Val Gardena led to the most controversial incident of the winter.

The instigator was his father and chief coach, Helmuth, who accused members of the International Ski Federation of blatant cheating and then promptly walked out. Thus began a confrontation with officials, trainers and journalists. And although Girardelli consequently won slaloms in Madonna di Campiglio and Kranjska Gora, to lead the overall standings, the potential loss of 50 points in Val Gardena may yet prove to be crucial.

Hence the importance of the downhill today. Assuming there is no eleventh-hour cancellation, and that Girardelli also does well in the slalom tomorrow, he will almost certainly be the favourite to pick up a Christmas bonus of 25 points in the combination event.

SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm)	U	Plate	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (°F)	°C
AUSTRIA						
Igls	15	120	good	powder	fair	snow -1
Mayrhofen	20	120	good	powder	closed	snow -5
Excellent skiing but some lifts closed due to weather						
Schladming	10	150	good	varied	air	snow -1
Great skiing amongst the trees						
FRANCE						
Chamonix	80	220	good	powder	good	fair 0
New snow on firm base						
La Plagne	140	140	good	powder	good	snow -6
Snow has been falling for the past 48hrs						
SWITZERLAND						
Grindelwald	120	150	good	powder	good	cloud -8
New snow on firm base						
Mürren	80	120	good	powder	good	fair -8
Deep powder everywhere						
Saas Fee	130	130	good	varied	closed	air 0
Good glacier skiing but windy						

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

SCOTLAND
Callaghan, Glasgow, Glasgow and the Loch Lomond area is still not enough snow for skiing. Forecast for today: A generally cloudy day, but with one or two bright or sunny spells, more especially at the Loch Lomond and Callaghan, it will be mainly dry with a little drizzle which will mostly affect Callaghan; another fairly mild day with the freezing level remaining above the summit, it will become very windy with the south-westerly wind, fresh to start with, increasing to gale force during the day. Outlook for tomorrow: Turning colder and brighter with occasional showers which will be heavy at times and will fall to snow on the higher slopes; it will be very windy with strong gales over the summit, becoming milder again on the lower slopes with some general rain affecting all areas; windy.

© Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

SWIMMING

Successful formula continues

From Steven Downes Indianapolis

The British women's medley relay squad is getting into the habit of winning. The quartet of Joanne Deakins, Suki Brownson, Madeleine Scarborough and Karen Pickering provided Great Britain's small team with its second event win on the second day of the United States Open, a day when the Americans were left wondering about their open-door policy.

Three of Britain's relay team were in the Europa Cup squad which beat East Germany recently. Here, with Deakins on the lead-off stage, they teamed up for a superb win over a Canadian national team and the pride of the American colleges.

Deakins set another lifetime best (1min 06.22sec) to hand over to a lead which no one could catch, giving Pickering, on her seventeenth birthday, the honour of victory.

For Scarborough, the butterfly swimmer, the relay was her second medal of the day, as she had earlier finished second in the 100 metres individual event. With her usual tactic of a fast opening length she was placed fifth at the turn, but then powered away.

Drawn in lane seven, Scarborough was not aware of her main opposition, Pam Minthorn, in lane one, and it was the American teenager who got the touch at Scarborough set the year's fastest time, as a Briton in a 100-metre "fly relay".

For once on this tour, Brownson disappointed when she failed to make the final of the 400 metres individual medley. It was not so much a bad swim, more a miscalculation, for in the evening's B final she won with a time which would have placed her fourth in the main event.

With foreigners winning half of the events on the second day, the meeting is not proving successful for the hosts. Bereft of most of their Olympic team, the Americans are even struggling in what used to be their strong areas - in the 200 metres freestyle, where the Swede, Anders Holmertz, played with the field before beating it, the first American was sixth. A lot of rebuilding is needed.

RESULTS (US times unless stated otherwise): 100m freestyle: A. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; B. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; C. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; D. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; E. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; F. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; G. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; H. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; I. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; J. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; K. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; L. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; M. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; N. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; O. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; P. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; Q. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; R. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; S. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; T. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; U. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; V. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; W. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; X. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; Y. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; Z. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AA. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AB. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AC. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AD. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AE. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AF. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AG. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AH. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AI. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AJ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AK. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AL. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AM. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AN. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AO. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AP. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AQ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AR. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AS. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AT. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AU. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AV. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AW. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AX. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AY. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; AZ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BA. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BB. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BC. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BD. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BE. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BF. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BG. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BH. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BI. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BJ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BK. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BL. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BM. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BN. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BO. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BP. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BQ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BR. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BS. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BT. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BU. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BV. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BW. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BX. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BY. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; BZ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CA. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CB. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CC. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CD. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CE. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CF. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CG. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CH. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CI. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CJ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CK. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CL. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CM. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CN. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CO. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CP. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CQ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CR. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CS. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CT. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CU. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CV. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CW. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CX. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CY. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; CZ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DA. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DB. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DC. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DD. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DE. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DF. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DG. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DH. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DI. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DJ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DK. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DL. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DM. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DN. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DO. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DP. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DQ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DR. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DS. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DT. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DU. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DV. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DW. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DX. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DY. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; DZ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EA. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EB. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EC. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; ED. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EE. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EF. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EG. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EH. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EI. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EJ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EK. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EL. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EM. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EN. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EO. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EP. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EQ. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; ER. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; ES. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; ET. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EU. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EV. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EW. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EX. Holmertz (Swe), 1min 54.89; EY. 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